

June 27, 2007

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MICHIGAN GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'UNSATISFACTORY'

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many Michigan's policies are counterproductive to the nation's teacher quality goals–

Washington, DC -- The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is the first project of its kind to provide a 360-degree detailed analysis of how states are hurting or helping teacher quality--and what they can do to fix broken and anachronistic policies.

While Michigan ranks in the middle of all states, its poor performance illustrates the sorry state of most state polices. In the six areas assessed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform, the state received two "C" grades and four "D" grades.

"Michigan's policies, like all states, are in need of a massive overhaul," said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. "It's time to turn in the gas-guzzling clunker in exchange for the hybrid."

Among the findings:

- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; doing little to ensure the quality of students going in and teachers coming out.
- State licensing rules are not at all accommodating to knowledgeable, qualified individuals who may want to switch careers to go into teaching.
- The state does not require that schools evaluate teachers every year—only once every three years--nor does it require that a teacher's classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.

Despite Michigan's bleak findings, there are some bright spots. For example, the state does a better job than most states ensuring that secondary special education teachers are prepared in the academic content they will be teaching.

To download copies of the Michigan report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, www.nctq.org. For questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or lisa@lisacohen.org or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (ext. 15) or mjackman@nctq.org.

NCTQ -- comprised of reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents -- advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies and seeks to lend transparency and accountability to the three institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: state governments, colleges of education, and teachers' unions.

Funding for the State Teacher Policy Yearbook was provided by many private foundations, including the Achelis and Bodman Foundations, Bradley Foundation, Daniels Fund, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Gleason Foundation, Joyce Foundation, IBM Foundation, Koret Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Milken Family Foundation, and Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. NCTQ accepts no government funding.