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NEVADA GETS FAILING MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'LAST IN CLASS'

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that most of Nevada'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.

Nevada ranks at the very bottom of states with no grade higher than a "D" in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed, ranging from teacher admissions standards, licensure to compensation reform.

"Nevada'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 does not provide a flexible non-traditional route to certification, which would allow people to switch careers and enter the teaching profession.
- The state pays insufficient attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, increasing the likelihood that teachers finish their preparation with significant gaps in their knowledge of essential core subject areas such as American history.
- Nevada neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.

Despite these bleak findings, there are a few bright spots. Unlike most states, Nevada requires all teachers to be evaluated annually. It also has higher standards than most states for deciding if education schools should receive state approval to operate.

To download copies of the Nevada 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.

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