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NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 of New Hampshire'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 New Hampshire ranks in the middle of all states, its poor performance illustrates the sorry state of most state polices. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed—ranging from teacher admissions standards, licensure to compensation reform—the state earned one “C” grades and five “D” grades.

“New Hampshire's policies, like all states', are in need of an overhaul,” said Kate Walsh, president of NCTQ. “It's time to exchange the gas-guzzling clunker for a hybrid.”

Among the findings:

- The state does not require that schools evaluate teachers annually nor does it require that a teacher's classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.
- New Hampshire neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; doing little to ensure the quality of students going in and teachers coming out of its programs.

Despite these bleak overall findings, there are some bright spots. For example, unlike many states, New Hampshire has fairly flexible policies allowing out-of-state teachers to transfer their licenses to teach in the state.

To download copies of the New Hampshire 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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