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Contact: Lisa Cohen
310.395.2544
or Molly Jackman
202.393.0020 ext. 15

**NEW YORK GETS LOW MARKS
FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT--
SEEN AS 'IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT'**

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia analyzing states' teacher policies, concluding that complicated and archaic policies, including those in New York, 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 *any and every* policy that states have impacting the quality of teachers, specifically their recruitment, preparation, licensing, evaluation and compensation.

While New York did better than most states, its overall performance shows how much work is still ahead. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed--ranging from teacher admissions standards, licensure to compensation reform, New York earned three "C" grades and three "D" grades.

"New York'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:

- New York is not doing enough to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of qualified teachers among poor and affluent schools.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; doing little to ensure the quality of students going in and teachers coming out its programs.
- The state neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.

Despite the bleak overall findings, there are a few bright spots. New York has taken some steps towards compensation reform by supporting differential pay initiatives. The state also has one of the best sets of professional standards for general elementary education in the country.

To download copies of the New York 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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