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

NORTH CAROLINA GETS LOW MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT'

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many North Carolina'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 North Carolina 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, the state earned three “C” grades and three “D” grades.

“North Carolina'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:

- North Carolina's “alternate route” for helping knowledgeable, talented college graduates enter the teaching profession is both burdensome and unsupportive of a new teacher's needs.
- The state allows some teachers to teach for multiple years without passing the state licensing tests.
- North Carolina 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 several bright spots. North Carolina requires that ed schools only accept teacher candidates who have passed a basic skills test, a minimal standard that many states do not observe. Also, the state does a better job collecting and reporting data that should help districts to remedy the inequitable distribution of teachers.

To download copies of the North Carolina 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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