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NORTH DAKOTA GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED 'LANGUISHING'

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

North Dakota ranks at the very bottom of states with no grade higher than D in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform.

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

Among the findings:

- State licensing rules make it very difficult for knowledgeable, qualified individuals to switch careers to go into teaching without burdensome coursework demands.
- The state has lax oversight of its education schools; North Dakota does little to monitor the quality of students going in and the quality of teachers coming out.
- Alarming, the state grants its teachers tenure after only one year of experience in the classroom.

Despite these bleak findings, there are some bright spots. Unlike most states, North Dakota does require annual evaluations of all teachers.

To download copies of the North Dakota 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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