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

**RHODE ISLAND GETS DISMAL MARKS
FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT--
LABELLED as 'LANGUISHING'**

--Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many of Rhode Island'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.

Rhode Island ranks at the bottom of states in the six areas assessed by NCTQ, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform. The state earned no grade higher than D in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed.

“Rhode Island'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:

- The state's oversight of education schools is lax. Rhode Island does little to monitor the quality of students going in and the quality of teachers coming out.
- State licensing rules make it very difficult for knowledgeable, qualified individuals to switch careers to go into teaching without burdensome coursework demands.
- The state pays insufficient attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, likely producing teachers with gaps in essential core subject areas such as American history.

Despite these bleak findings, there are a few bright spots. Rhode Island encourages districts to attract teachers to shortage areas and reward effective teachers by supporting differential pay. The state also gives districts authority over teacher pay rates.

To download copies of the Rhode Island 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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