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UTAH GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED as 'LANGUISHING'

--Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that while Alabama takes a leadership role in some areas, many 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.

Utah ranks at the bottom of states. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed—ranging from teacher admissions standards, licensure to compensation reform—the state earned with one C, four D's, and one F.

“Utah'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's oversight of education schools is lax. Utah does little to monitor the quality of students going in and the quality of teachers coming out.
- Utah permits teacher to teach up to three years before requiring them to pass the state licensing test demonstrating mastery of minimal state standards.
- State licensing rules make it very difficult for knowledgeable, qualified individuals to switch careers to go into teaching without burdensome coursework demands.

Despite these bleak findings, there are a few bright spots. For example, unlike many states, Utah require annual evaluations of all teachers.

To download copies of the Utah 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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