

June 27, 2007

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

WASHINGTON STATE GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED AS 'UNSATISFACTORY'

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that most of Nevada'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 *any and every* policy that states have impacting the quality of teachers--specifically their recruitment, preparation, licensing, evaluation and compensation.

While Washington ranks in the middle in comparison to other states, the state's overall performance was low. The state earned three "C" grades, two "D" grades and an "F" grade in the six areas NCTQ assessed.

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

Among the findings:

- Washington is not holding education schools accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.
- Washington is also neglecting special education teachers. The state is not doing enough to prepare teachers to serve students with disabilities.
- Washington does not ensure that elementary teachers are trained in the most effective strategies for teaching young children to read.

Despite the overall bleak findings, there are a few bright spots. Washington is one of the few states to require formal evaluations of teachers on an annual basis, and to set out potential consequences for teachers who continually receive negative evaluations.

To download copies of the Washington 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.

Funding for the State Teacher Policy Yearbook was provided by many private foundations, including the Achelis and Bodman Foundations, Bradley Foundation, Daniels Fund, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Gleason Foundation, Joyce Foundation, IBM Foundation, Koret Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Milken Family Foundation, and Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. NCTQ accepts no government funding.