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WYOMING 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 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 that impact the quality of teachers--specifically their recruitment, preparation, licensing, evaluation and compensation.

Wyoming ranks at the bottom of states with no grade higher than "D" in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed.

"Wyoming'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:

- The state's oversight of education schools is lax. Wyoming does little to monitor either the quality of students going into programs or the quality of teachers coming out of its programs.
- Wyoming does not provide a flexible non-traditional route to certification, which would allow individuals to switch careers and enter the teaching profession. These policies significantly limit the potential quality of the state's teacher pool, particularly in shortage areas like math and science.
- Wyoming neglects special education teachers. Its policies do not ensure that teachers are well prepared to work with students with disabilities.

Despite these bleak findings, there are a few bright spots in Wyoming's teacher policies. The state appropriately requires most teachers to pass all licensure tests before entering the classroom, and all teachers to pass within one year of beginning to teach.

To download copies of the Wyoming 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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