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For Immediate Release



National report findings released

NCTQ study suggests improvements, updates in processes for Dayton Public Schools

At a press conference this morning, Dayton Public Schools Superintendent Lori L. Ward announced the findings of a report by the National Council on Teacher Quality.

The report, commissioned by Learn to Earn Dayton and the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, examined teacher quality policies in Dayton Public Schools throughout the 2011-2012 school year.

Included in the study were recommendations for improvements that must be made through changes to district processes, collective bargaining or state policy. Ward noted the 13 recommendations regarding district process updates are significant in assisting Dayton Public Schools to improve student achievement.

“Many of these findings suggest improvements to internal controls, which we either have implemented or plan to implement in the near future,” Ward said. “As a district, we continue to strive for improvement in our business practices, which also aids us in promoting student achievement. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the National Council on Teacher Quality study.”

Updates to the district’s financial and student information systems have been made over the past three years, allowing for increased data collection and accountability. In addition, the district piloted the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System in seven of its schools last year, and plans to fully incorporate the program, which calls for annual teacher evaluations, district-wide in the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

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NCTQ gathered information from district data and numerous interviews with DPS teachers and principals. The study details a list of recommendations for improving district functions in several key areas, including staffing, evaluations, tenure, compensation and work schedules.

Some 21 of the study's recommendations require action through contract negotiations or a change in state-level education policy.

Ward stressed the focus is to work with all district staff on improvements.

“We know our staff is committed to improving student outcomes, and given all of the changes with public education at the national and state levels, Dayton Public Schools is still posting steady, incremental results,” she said.

According to a biography on the organization's website (www.nctq.org), “(t)he National Council on Teacher Quality advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies at the federal, state and local levels in order to increase the number of effective teachers.” The organization has done studies of major urban districts in Philadelphia, Oakland and Miami-Dade, Fla., among others.

For a full copy of the report, visit <http://www.nctq.org/reports.do>.