

January 30, 2014

Contact: Alexandra Wilding
Phone 202.393.0020 ext.131
awilding@nctq.org

INDIANA EARNS “B-” FOR TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS POLICIES

New report from the National Council on Teacher Quality gives Indiana improved grades for policies that support effective teaching

January 30, 2014 (Washington, DC) — The National Council on Teacher Quality today released its seventh annual *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, which includes a 360-degree analysis of every state law, rule and regulation that shapes the effectiveness of the teaching profession in Indiana.

Indiana received an overall grade of B-, up from a C+ in 2011, the last year the state’s full portfolio of teacher policies was graded. The average grade for 2013 across all 50 states and the District of Columbia is a “C-”.

NCTQ President Kate Walsh said, "This year’s *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* proves that it is both possible and practical for states to drive teacher effectiveness policy. Many states once argued that raising the bar for teacher preparation, licensing and evaluation and tying personnel decisions to results for kids couldn’t be done. Now these policies are on the books in increasing numbers of states across the nation."

Key Yearbook Findings

Teacher effectiveness is increasingly being factored into personnel decisions:

Yearbook Goal Areas	Indiana’s 2013 Grades
Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	B+
Area 2: Expanding the Teacher Pool	C-
Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	C
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	C-
Area 5: Dismissing Ineffective Teachers	B
Average Overall Grade	B-

- *Teacher evaluation.* Indiana requires annual evaluations for all teachers and is one of 35 states that requires student achievement/growth to be an important criterion in evaluating teacher effectiveness.
- *Tying performance to tenure.* Indiana is one of 20 states where evidence of student learning is considered in tenure decisions.
- *Dismissing ineffective teachers.* Twenty-nine states, including Indiana, now articulate that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for a teacher’s dismissal.
- *Prohibiting “last in, first out” policies.* Indiana requires districts to consider teacher performance in making layoff decisions.

Indiana earned the highest grade of B+ for progress in setting higher standards for the preparation of teachers, but there is more to be done:

- *Elementary teacher preparation.* Indiana’s content tests for elementary school licensure provide separate passing scores for every subject which helps ensure teachers know all of the core content they will teach.

- *Science of reading.* Indiana is one of 17 states that helps to ensure elementary teacher know the science of reading by requiring elementary teachers to pass a test measuring that knowledge.
- *Secondary teacher preparation.* Indiana is one of only four states that requires secondary teachers to pass a content test in every subject for which they are licensed or have an endorsement to teach.
- *Raising admission requirements.* Indiana could strengthen teacher preparation by raising admission requirements to ensure that teacher preparation programs admit candidates with strong academic records, such as requiring a minimum GPA of 3.0 (which only seven states do now).
- *Special education teachers.* Indiana is one of 35 states that offers a K-12 special education license, which wrongly presumes special education teachers do not need to master grade and subject specific content knowledge.

There has been much less action on policies aimed at recruiting and retaining the best teachers in the profession:

- *Use of evaluations for improving practice.* Indiana requires all teachers to receive feedback on their evaluations but fails to require professional development to be informed by evaluation findings or require improvement plans for teachers with poor evaluation ratings.
- *Support for performance pay.* Unlike most states, however, Indiana is one of just 6 states that requires performance to be factored into salaries for all teachers.

Very few states are providing flexible pathways into teaching:

- *Alternate routes.* Indiana's alternative pathways to teacher certification are in need of significant improvement.

The 2013 Indiana State Teacher Policy Yearbook is immediately available for free download at: www.nctq.org/statepolicy. The newly redesigned website also provides searchable access to the entire *Yearbook* dataset, including topical pages with up-to-date data on state teacher policy, a customized search tool and user-friendly options for generating graphic results that can be exported and shared.

The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* was funded by private foundations across the United States, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Joyce Foundation and The Walton Family Foundation. NCTQ accepts no funding from the federal government. The National Council of Teacher Quality— comprised of reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents— is a non-partisan research and policy group committed to restructuring the teaching profession based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. More information about NCTQ, including a list of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board, can be found on the NCTQ website, www.nctq.org

	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	B	C
Louisiana	B	C-	C-
Rhode Island	B	B-	D
Tennessee	B	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	C	C-
Connecticut	B-	C-	D+
Georgia	B-	C	C-
Indiana	B-	C+	D
Massachusetts	B-	C	D+
Michigan	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	B-	D+	D+
New York	B-	C	D+
Ohio	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	D+
Colorado	C+	C	D+
Delaware	C+	C	D
Illinois	C+	C	D+
Virginia	C+	D+	D+
Kentucky	C	D+	D+
Mississippi	C	D+	D+
North Carolina	C	D+	D+
Utah	C	C-	D
Alabama	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	D+	D+
Maine	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	D-
Pennsylvania	C-	D+	D
South Carolina	C-	C-	C-
Texas	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	D+	D+
California	D+	D+	D+
District of Columbia	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D-	D-
Idaho	D+	D+	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D
New Mexico	D+	D+	D+
Wisconsin	D+	D	D
Alaska	D	D	D
Iowa	D	D	D
Kansas	D	D	D-
New Hampshire	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D-	D-
Wyoming	D	D	D-
Nebraska	D-	D-	D-
South Dakota	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F