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

## **IOWA GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED as 'LANGUISHING'**

—Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia analyzing states' teacher policies, concluding that complicated and archaic policies, including those in Iowa, 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.

Iowa ranks at the bottom of states with one C, three D's and two F's in each of the six areas NCTQ assessed.

"Iowa'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. Iowa does little to monitor the quality of students going in and the quality of teachers coming out.
- The state neglects special education teachers. Its policies do not ensure that teachers are well prepared to work with students with disabilities.
- Iowa does not provide a flexible non-traditional route to certification, which would allow people 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.

Despite these bleak findings, there are a few bright spots in Iowa's teacher policies. The state has made efforts to use financial incentives to improve teacher recruitment and retention in shortage areas.

To download copies of the Iowa report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org). For questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or [lisa@lisacohen.org](mailto:lisa@lisacohen.org) or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (ext. 15) or [mjackman@nctq.org](mailto: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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