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## **DELAWARE EARNS B- GRADE FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW EDITION OF NATIONAL YEARBOOK**

### ***STATE DEMONSTRATES NO PROGRESS IN STATE TEACHER POLICIES SINCE 2015***

Washington, DC--Today, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) released its bi-annual *2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, finding that states' previous rapid progress to modernize their teacher policies has largely slowed. Delaware's overall grade for its teaching policies remained at a B- grade since 2015. By comparison, the overall grade nationally also stagnated, staying at a C- grade.

From 2007 until 2015, most states took aggressive steps to improve the teaching profession. However, since the last edition of the Yearbook in 2015, few states have initiated any new actions to improve their policies guiding how teachers are selected, prepared, evaluated, and retained. As a result, state grades have mostly stagnated, with more state grades decreasing than at any other time in the *Yearbook's* history.

This year, among all 50 states and the District of Columbia, only six states earned a higher grade than Delaware, five states performed as well as Delaware, and 39 states earned a lower grade. Florida and Louisiana each earned a B+, the highest grade in this year's *Yearbook*.

"States' teacher policies have an enormous impact on the quality of education in the state," said Elizabeth Ross, Managing Director of State Policy at NCTQ. "By highlighting opportunities for improvement, as well as strong policies, this Yearbook is designed to catalyze state action. We know the progress states are capable of making and urge them to do so. Teachers and students deserve nothing less."

Delaware has a few key opportunities for improvement. In its 2017 *Yearbook*, NCTQ reported that the state earned its lowest grades in: Special Education Teacher Preparation (D-), Retaining Effective Teachers (D), and Teacher Compensation (D+).

Delaware earned its top grades in: Hiring (B+), where the state meets the goal for Provisional and Emergency Licensure, General Teacher Preparation (B), and Teacher and Principal Evaluation (B-). The Yearbook designated Delaware a "Best Practice" state in Program Reporting Requirements, as the state holds teacher preparation programs accountable for meeting performance standards and for the quality of teachers they produce. It earned a second "Best Practice" designation in Alternate Route Preparation, since the state's alternate route programs prepare new teachers for the classroom through manageable and relevant coursework, intensive mentoring and induction, and a supervised practice teaching experience.

The full *2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is available [here](#), with comprehensive information regarding each state's teacher policies available in NCTQ's [State Teacher Policy Database](#).

To compare Delaware to other states across the country in eight key measures, including teacher pay,

teacher diversity, and educator equity, please look [here](#).

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Elizabeth Ross, please contact Eric Duncan at [eduncan@nctq.org](mailto:eduncan@nctq.org).

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) is a nonpartisan research and policy group, committed to modernizing the teaching profession and based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. NCTQ is the nation's expert on the quality of teacher preparation programs and evaluates national teacher education against evidence-based criteria. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org)

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