

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2017, 12:01 AM

Contact: Eric Duncan  
National Council on Teacher Quality  
eduncan@nctq.org  
(202) 393-0020 ext. 130

**FLORIDA TIES FOR HIGHEST GRADE (B+) ON 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. Florida's overall grade for its teaching policies stayed a B+ since 2015. By comparison, the overall grade nationally stagnated at a lower level, 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.

Florida, along with Louisiana, earned the highest grades in the nation in this year's *Yearbook* with a B+.

"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."

Among its key opportunities for improvement, Florida would be well-served to review its Special Education Teacher Preparation, for which the state earned its lowest policy area grade with a D-.

Florida earned an A- grade in Secondary Teacher Preparation, for fully meeting the goals for Middle School and Secondary Content Knowledge. It earned a B+ in Elementary Teacher Preparation, for fully meeting the goals for Teaching Elementary Reading and Teaching Elementary Mathematics. In addition, the state earned B grades in General Teacher Preparation, Hiring, and Teacher and Principal Evaluation.

The Yearbook named Florida as a "Best Practice" state in five areas:

- Program Performance Measures, for connecting teachers' student growth data to their former teacher preparation programs;
- Program Reporting Requirements, for holding teacher preparation programs accountable for meeting performance standards and for the quality of teachers they produce;
- Adolescent Literacy, for the state requirement that middle school and secondary candidates are fully prepared to meet the instructional shifts associated with college- and career-readiness standards;
- Principal Effectiveness, due to state requirements that principal effectiveness be determined, in part, by objective measures of student growth and teacher effectiveness/instructional

- leadership, and that ineffective principals participate in improvement planning; and
- High Need Schools and Subjects, for state rules enabling teachers to earn additional pay for working in high-need schools and teaching in shortage subject areas.

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 Florida 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)

###