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INDIANA 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 much of Indiana’s policies 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 how states are hurting or helping teacher quality—and what they can do to fix broken and anachronistic policies.

Indiana ranks at the bottom of states with no grade higher than D in any of the six areas NCTQ assessed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform.

“Indiana’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 does not require that schools evaluate teachers every year nor does it require that a teacher’s classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.
- The state neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.
- The state pays no attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, failing to lay out the specific knowledge needed to teach in the elementary classroom. The state has no specific requirements in any of the core subjects such as American history that elementary teachers need to know.

Despite these bleak findings, there are some bright spots. Indiana is one of only two states to delay awarding tenure until a teacher has completed five years of satisfactory performance.

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