

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement from Kate Walsh, President of the National Council on Teacher Quality,
on Scrapping New York’s Literacy Test for Prospective Teachers**

Today, New York’s State Board of Regents is [considering doing away with](#) a recently adopted licensing test for teacher candidates, amid concerns that too many black and Latino teacher candidates fail to pass the test.

NCTQ President Kate Walsh released this statement: “Getting rid of this recent licensing test is a big step backwards, not just for New York but for the country. This test, first implemented in 2013-14, put the academic needs of students above the employment interests of teachers. Rather than lowering standards by removing the Academic Literacy Skills Test, we should work to educate future teachers to reach this level. Otherwise, it is our students, especially those from traditionally disadvantaged and minority backgrounds, who will suffer most in the long run.”

The National Council on Teacher Quality’s most recent [review](#) of undergraduate elementary teacher prep programs, released in December 2016, found some programs in every state, including New York, routinely admit aspiring teachers who lack basic literacy and numeracy skills.

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To schedule an interview with Ms. Walsh, please contact Stephen Buckley on (202) 393-0020 ext. 129.

About the National Council on Teacher Quality:

The National Council on Teacher Quality is a nonpartisan research and policy group, committed to modernizing the teaching profession and based on the belief that all children deserve effective teachers. We recognize that it is not teachers who bear responsibility for their profession’s many challenges, but the institutions with the

greatest authority and influence over teachers. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, www.nctq.org.