

MAINE KEEPS PACE WITH OTHER STATES ON TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS POLICY OVERALL; BUT STATE EFFORTS ARE UNEVEN

New Report from NCTQ Finds Maine Could Do More to Consistently Enact Policies that Support Effective Teaching; State Earns C-

December 8, 2015 (Washington, DC) — The National Council on Teacher Quality today released its ninth annual *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, which includes a 360-degree analysis of every state law, rule and regulation that shapes the effectiveness of the teaching profession in Maine.

Maine received an overall grade of C-, which is the same as the average grade for 2015 across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Yearbook Goal Areas	Maine's 2015 Grades
Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers	D+
Area 2: Expanding the Teacher Pool	C-
Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers	D-
Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers	C
Area 5: Dismissing Ineffective Teachers	C
Average Overall Grade	C-

NCTQ Senior Vice President for State and District Policy Sandi

Jacobs said, "Nationwide the glass is really starting to look half full on states' efforts to drive teacher effectiveness through smarter policy. Like most states, however, Maine has plenty of room for improvement."

On teacher preparation and licensing, Maine hasn't done enough to ensure that teachers are prepared for the demands of college- and career-readiness standards:

- *Elementary teacher preparation.* Maine's content tests for elementary school licensure provide separate passing scores for each subject which helps to ensure teachers know all of the core content they will teach.
- *Special education.* Maine is one of only 14 states that, appropriately, do not offer a K-12 general license for special education teachers.
- *Science of reading.* However, Maine does not ensure elementary teachers' knowledge of effective reading instruction.
- *Admission requirements.* Maine does not require that teacher preparation programs admit candidates with strong academic records.
- *Middle school licensing.* Maine is one of 19 states that still offer a generalist K-8 license. Candidates for this license only need to pass elementary content tests for licensing.
- *Secondary teacher preparation.* Maine has significant loopholes in its licensing requirements for secondary teachers.

Maine requires evaluations of teacher effectiveness and teacher performance informs some policy and practice:

- *Teacher evaluation.* Maine is one of 35 states requiring student achievement/growth to be included as an important criterion in teacher evaluations. However, Maine does not require annual evaluations for all teachers.
- *Tying performance to tenure.* In Maine tenure is granted to teacher virtually automatically after three years without considering teacher performance.

- *Dismissing ineffective teachers.* Maine is one of 28 states articulating that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for a teacher's dismissal.
- *Prohibiting "last in, first out" policies.* Maine requires districts to consider teacher performance (rather than only seniority) in making layoff decisions.
- *Professional support.* Maine requires that all teachers receive feedback on their evaluations, directs districts to connect professional development to teachers' identified needs. The state also requires structured improvement plans for teachers who receive poor evaluations.

Maine has plenty of room to improve on other several critical teacher policy fronts:

- *Teacher prep accountability.* Maine collects some performance data on teacher preparation programs, but does not set any program performance standards and does not connect student achievement to teacher preparation programs.
- *Support for performance pay.* Maine does not support performance pay or differential pay for teachers in high-need schools or shortage subject areas.
- *Alternate routes.* Maine's alternate routes to certification are in need of significant improvement.

The *2015 Maine State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is immediately available for free download [here](#). The website also provides searchable access to the entire *Yearbook* dataset, including topical pages with up-to-date data on state teacher policy, a [customized search tool](#) and user-friendly options for generating graphic results that can be exported and shared.

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The National Council on Teacher Quality is a nonpartisan research and policy group committed to modernizing the teaching profession 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. To that end we work to achieve fundamental changes in the policy and practices of teacher preparation programs, school districts, state governments, and teachers unions. Our Board of Directors and Advisory Board come from a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives, and they all believe that policy changes are overdue in the recruitment and retention of teachers. More information about NCTQ can be found on our website, www.nctq.org.

	Overall State Grade 2015	Overall State Grade 2013	Overall State Grade 2011	Overall State Grade 2009
Florida	B+	B+	B	C
Indiana	B	B-	C+	D
Louisiana	B	B	C-	C-
New York	B	B-	C	D+
Tennessee	B	B	B-	C-
Arkansas	B-	B-	C	C-
Connecticut	B-	B-	C-	D+
Delaware	B-	C+	C	D
Georgia	B-	B-	C	C-
Massachusetts	B-	B-	C	D+
Ohio	B-	B-	C+	D+
Oklahoma	B-	B-	B-	D+
Rhode Island	B-	B	B-	D
Illinois	C+	C+	C	D+
Michigan	C+	B-	C+	D-
New Jersey	C+	B-	D+	D+
Utah	C+	C	C-	D
Virginia	C+	C+	D+	D+
Colorado	C	C+	C	D+
Kentucky	C	C	D+	D+
Mississippi	C	C	D+	D+
New Mexico	C	D+	D+	D+
South Carolina	C	C-	C-	C-
Arizona	C-	C-	D+	D+
Idaho	C-	D+	D+	D-
Maine	C-	C-	D-	F
Minnesota	C-	C-	C-	D-
Missouri	C-	C-	D	D
Nevada	C-	C-	C-	D-
North Carolina	C-	C	D+	D+
Pennsylvania	C-	C-	D+	D
Texas	C-	C-	C-	C-
Washington	C-	C-	C-	D+
West Virginia	C-	C-	D+	D+
Alabama	D+	C-	C-	C-
District of Columbia	D+	D+	D	D-
Hawaii	D+	D+	D-	D-
Kansas	D+	D	D	D-
Maryland	D+	D+	D+	D
California	D	D+	D+	D+
Iowa	D	D	D	D
Nebraska	D	D-	D-	D-
New Hampshire	D	D	D-	D-
North Dakota	D	D	D	D-
Oregon	D	D	D-	D-
Wisconsin	D	D+	D	D
Wyoming	D	D	D	D-
Alaska	D-	D	D	D
South Dakota	D-	D-	D	D
Vermont	D-	D-	D-	F
Montana	F	F	F	F