

June 27, 2007

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## **MISSOURI GETS DISMAL MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED as 'UNSATISFACTORY'**

–Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that many Missouri'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.

While Missouri ranks in the middle of all states, its poor performance illustrates the sorry state of most state polices. In the six areas assessed, including admission standards into teaching, licensure and compensation reform, the state earned two "C" grades and four "D" grades.

"Missouri'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 pays insufficient attention to the content preparation of elementary teachers, increasing the likelihood that teachers finish their preparation with significant gaps in their knowledge of essential core subject areas such as American history.
- Missouri allows teachers to teach for too many years without having passed the state licensing test.
- The state does not require that schools evaluate teachers annually as is standard in most professions, nor does it require that a teacher's classroom effectiveness be the preponderant consideration of an evaluation.

Despite the bleak overall findings, there are some bright spots. For example, Missouri is one of the few states to require that a teacher has five years of experience before being eligible for tenure.

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

*Funding for the State Teacher Policy Yearbook was provided by many private foundations, including the Achelis and Bodman Foundations, Bradley Foundation, Daniels Fund, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Gleason Foundation, Joyce Foundation, IBM Foundation, Koret Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Milken Family Foundation, and Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. NCTQ accepts no government funding.*