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**NCTQ Applauds Supreme Court Decision on Special Education**

Washington D.C.—The National Council on Teacher Quality applauds the Supreme Court for its unanimous ruling in *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District*. The ruling states that special education programs must be “appropriately ambitious in light of [the student’s] circumstances”, thereby establishing that expectations of minimal progress are insufficient and highlighting the need for schools to set higher goals for students with individualized education programs. This helps ensure that all students with disabilities have access to an appropriate education.

NCTQ’s President Kate Walsh stated, “Today’s ruling demonstrates the importance of high expectations for special education students. However, goals and programs are not enough unless the special education teachers know how to help their students make meaningful progress. States must do more to ensure all special education teachers are well-prepared in both content and how to teach these students. The current status quo is insufficient and unfair to special education students and their families.”

NCTQ’s research demonstrates that states are not doing enough to establish rigorous teacher preparation requirements for special education teachers. In 2015, only nine states required teachers to pass a subject-matter test to earn an elementary special education license and only four required such a test for teachers to earn a K-12 license. In order for teachers to obtain a secondary special education license, just two states required teachers to pass content tests in all core subjects and only five required teachers to pass even one content test.

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***About the National Council on Teacher Quality:***

*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).*