

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2017, 12:01 AM

Contact: Eric Duncan  
National Council on Teacher Quality  
eduncan@nctq.org  
(202) 393-0020 ext. 130

## **NEW JERSEY EARNS B GRADE FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW EDITION OF NATIONAL YEARBOOK**

### ***STATE DEMONSTRATES PROGRESS IN STATE TEACHER POLICIES TO IMPROVE TEACHER QUALITY SINCE 2015***

Washington, DC--Today, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) released its bi-annual *2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, finding that states' previous rapid progress to modernize their teacher policies has largely slowed. New Jersey's overall grade for its teacher policies improved from a C+ in 2015 to a B in 2017. By comparison, the overall grade nationally remained unchanged, staying at a C-grade.

From 2007 until 2015, most states took aggressive steps to improve the teaching profession. However, since the last edition of the Yearbook in 2015, few states have initiated any new actions to improve their policies guiding how teachers are selected, prepared, evaluated, and retained. As a result, state grades have mostly stagnated, with more state grades decreasing than at any other time in the *Yearbook's* history.

This year, among all 50 states and the District of Columbia, only two states earned a higher grade than New Jersey, three states performed as well as New Jersey, and 45 states earned a lower grade. Florida and Louisiana both earned B+ grades, the highest in this year's *Yearbook*.

"States' teacher policies have an enormous impact on the quality of education in the state," said Elizabeth Ross, Managing Director of State Policy at NCTQ. "By highlighting opportunities for improvement, as well as strong policies, this Yearbook is designed to catalyze state action. We know the progress states are capable of making and urge them to do so. Teachers and students deserve nothing less."

New Jersey has a couple of key opportunities for growth. In its 2017 *Yearbook*, NCTQ reported that the state earned an F for its policies concerning Teacher Compensation, under which the state does not support differentiated pay for teachers in high need schools or subjects, nor does it encourage compensation for prior relevant work experience.

New Jersey earned its highest grade for its policies concerning Alternate Route Teacher Preparation, where it earned a B+. New Jersey earned a B for its policies concerning General Teacher Preparation, Hiring, and Teacher and Principal Evaluation.

New Jersey earned "Best Practice" designations in four areas:

- General Teacher Preparation, Student Teaching/Clinical Practice, where the state requires that cooperating teachers are selected based on evidence of effectiveness and that the clinical practice experience is at least 10 weeks, full time, and takes place in the setting of the license sought;
- Alternate Route Teacher Preparation for the Classroom, where the state's alternate route

programs prepare new teachers for the classroom through manageable and relevant coursework, intensive mentoring and induction, and a supervised practice teaching experience;

- Hiring, Provisional and Emergency Licensure, where the state requires that all new teachers pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure; and,
- Teacher and Principal Evaluation, Frequency of Evaluation and Observation, where the state requires that all teachers are evaluated annually and observed multiple times, and that new teachers are supported with feedback early in the year.

The full *2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is available [here](#), with comprehensive information regarding each state's teacher policies available in NCTQ's [State Teacher Policy Database](#).

To compare New Jersey to other states across the country in eight key measures, including teacher pay, teacher diversity, and educator equity, please look [here](#).

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Elizabeth Ross, please contact Eric Duncan at [eduncan@nctq.org](mailto:eduncan@nctq.org).

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)

###