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NEW MEXICO EARNS C GRADE FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW EDITION OF NATIONAL YEARBOOK

STATE DEMONSTRATES NO CHANGE 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 Mexico's overall grade for its teaching policies remained at a C, the same grade the state earned in the *2015 State Teacher Policy Yearbook*. By comparison, the overall grade nationally also remained unchanged from 2015, 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, 19 states earned a higher grade than New Mexico, seven states performed as well as New Mexico, and 24 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 Mexico has several key opportunities for growth. In the 2017 *Yearbook*, the state earned an F for its policies governing Special Education Teacher Preparation. The state also earned a D- for its policies governing Alternate Route Teacher Preparation, and a D+ for its policies related to Secondary Teacher Preparation.

New Mexico earned its highest grade, a B, for its policies related to Hiring, under which the state requires that only teacher who have met all state requirements (including passing content tests) may teach in core academic areas, and Teacher and Principal Evaluation, under which the state requires that all teachers be evaluated annually and observed multiple times, and that new teachers be given feedback early in the year.

The state earned the Yearbook's "Best Practice" designation for its policies related to Teacher Compensation in High-Need Schools and Subjects, for which the state enables teachers to earn additional pay for working in high-need schools and teaching in shortage subject areas.

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 Mexico 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.

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

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