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

### ***STATE DEMONSTRATES NO CHANGE IN ITS OVERALL GRADE FOR 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. Ohio's overall grade for its teaching policies remained unchanged at a B-, the same grade it earned in the *2015 State Teacher Policy Yearbook*. By comparison, the overall grade nationally also 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, six states earned a higher grade than Ohio, five states performed as well as Ohio, and 39 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."

Ohio has a few key opportunities for growth. In its *2017 Yearbook*, NCTQ reported that the state earned a D for its policies related to Special Education Teacher Preparation, under which it does not require elementary special education teachers to demonstrate the same content knowledge of core subjects as it does for general elementary education teachers. The state also earned a D+ for its policies related to Elementary Teacher Preparation, under which it does not require elementary teacher candidates to demonstrate the necessary content knowledge in each of the core elementary content areas to become elementary teachers.

The state earned its highest grade, a B, for its policies governing Hiring, under which it requires out-of-state teachers to meet its testing requirements, undergo full criminal background checks, and be eligible for standard licenses without unnecessary requirements and does not grant emergency or provisional licenses for more than one year.

Ohio earned the *Yearbook's* "Best Practice" designation in two policy areas:

- Middle School Content Knowledge, where the state requires middle school teachers to pass a rigorous single-subject content test; and

- Leadership Opportunities, where the state requires districts to consider evidence of effectiveness when determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

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 Ohio 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)

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