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## **OKLAHOMA EARNS D+ GRADE FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW EDITION OF NATIONAL YEARBOOK**

### ***STATE DEMONSTRATES DECLINE 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. Oklahoma's overall grade for its teaching policies decreased from a B- in 2015 to a D+ in 2017. By comparison, the overall grade nationally stagnated, staying at a C- grade. Oklahoma's grade decrease between 2015 and 2017 is attributable, in part, to the state's new policies related to Alternate Route Teacher Preparation, under which the state no longer explicitly provides a test-out option for coursework requirements, and Teacher Evaluation, Dismissal, and Tenure, under which the state no longer requires objective evidence of student growth to be considered when making these personnel decisions.

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, 31 states earned a higher grade than Oklahoma, 10 states performed as well as Oklahoma, and nine 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."

Oklahoma has several key opportunities for growth. In its 2017 *Yearbook*, NCTQ reported that the state earned a D- grade for its policies related to Alternate Route Teacher Preparation and Teacher and Principal Evaluation, it earned a D for its policies related to Special Education Teacher Preparation, and it earned a D+ for its policies related to Secondary Teacher Preparation and Retaining Effective Teachers.

Oklahoma earned its highest grades for its policies related to General Teacher Preparation and Hiring, for which it earned a C in both 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 Oklahoma 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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