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

### ***STATE INCREASES GRADE FOR ITS 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. Rhode Island's overall grade for its teaching policies improved from a B- in 2015 to a B in 2017. By comparison, during this same time period, the overall grade nationally stagnated, 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, two states earned a higher grade than Rhode Island, three states performed as well as Rhode Island, 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."

Rhode Island has a key opportunity for growth related to its policies governing Teacher Compensation. In its 2017 *Yearbook*, NCTQ reported that Rhode Island earned an F in this area due to its lack of support for performance pay based on evidence of effectiveness and additional pay for teachers working in high-need schools and teaching in shortage areas, and its lack of encouragement for additional compensation for new teachers with relevant prior work experience.

Rhode Island earned its highest grade (B+) for its policies related to General Teacher Preparation, and also earned B grades in Hiring and Teacher and Principal Evaluation. Rhode Island also earned the *Yearbook's* "Best Practice" designation for its policies related to Provisional and Emergency Licensure, where the state requires that all teachers must pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

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 Rhode Island 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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