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## **VIRGINIA GETS MEDIOCRE MARKS FOR TEACHER POLICIES IN NEW REPORT-- LABELED AS 'WEAK BUT PROGRESSING' --**

--Today the National Council on Teacher Quality released a 50-state encyclopedia on states' teacher policies, concluding that while Virginia takes a leadership role in some areas, many policies are counterproductive to the nation's teacher quality goals --

Washington, DC -- The *State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is the first project of its kind to provide a 360-degree detailed analysis of how states are hurting or helping teacher quality—and what they can do to fix broken and anachronistic policies.

While Virginia did better than most states, its overall performance shows how much work is still ahead. In the six areas of teacher policy assessed—ranging from teacher admissions standards to compensation, Virginia earned one B, three Cs, and two Ds.

Among the findings:

- Virginia is doing little to ensure that highly qualified and experienced teachers are distributed equitably among schools in the state, whether serving affluent or poor children.
- Unlike other professions where employees are evaluated at least annually, Virginia only requires that teachers are formally evaluated every three years.
- Virginia neglects the preparation of special education teachers, failing to ensure that these teachers are prepared to teach students with disabilities.

Despite these bleak findings, there are some bright spots. Virginia earns a best practice designation for having one of the strongest policies for teacher preparation in reading instruction in the country.

To download copies of the Virginia report, which includes national comparisons, or to purchase printed copies of the report, visit the NCTQ website, [www.nctq.org](http://www.nctq.org). For questions about the report, please contact Lisa Cohen at (310) 395-2544 or [lisa@lisacohen.org](mailto:lisa@lisacohen.org) or Molly Jackman at (202) 393-0020 (ext. 15) or [mjackman@nctq.org](mailto:mjackman@nctq.org).

NCTQ -- comprised of reform-minded Democrats, Republicans, and Independents -- advocates for reforms in a broad range of teacher policies and seeks to lend transparency and accountability to the three institutions that have the greatest impact on teacher quality: state governments, colleges of education, and teachers' unions.

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