

National Council on Teacher Quality



February 5, 2015

Mr. Christian Soura
Interim Director
SC Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

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Dear Mr. Soura:

I am pleased to send you a copy of the National Council on Teacher Quality's 2014 *State Teacher Policy Yearbook*, an analysis of South Carolina's teacher policies. Last year's edition of the *Yearbook* provided a comprehensive review of your state's laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's edition is an interim edition looking at teacher preparation, with a special focus on whether new teachers are being prepared for college and career readiness standards.

With so much recent attention on states' standards for K-12 students, we thought the time was right to look at whether state requirements are aimed at delivering new teachers into the classroom well prepared to help their students achieve at the high level demanded by college- and career-readiness standards.

The 2014 *Yearbook* identifies policy strengths and includes specific recommendations for policy improvements. Topics covered include admission into teacher preparation programs, teacher content knowledge, preparation for the instructional shifts required by college- and career-readiness standards and preparation program accountability.

As is our custom, we sent multiple drafts to state education officials for review to ensure the accuracy of our analyses. Recognizing that some states disagree with our policy goals, we included state responses to each goal in the report.

We hope that our policy goals and specific recommendations can serve as a springboard for advancing teacher preparation in your state. Toward this end, NCTQ is available, at no cost to you, to present our findings to you or other policymakers in your state, as well as to work with you directly on policy recommendations for teacher preparation or other areas related to teacher quality. Please contact me at sjacobs@nctq.org or 202-393-0020 ext. 101 to discuss how we might assist you.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you to advance teacher quality in South Carolina and throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

Sandi Jacobs
Vice President and
Managing Director for State Policy

Enclosure