

---

Subject: Teacher Quality Bulletin, Vol 8, Number 1 (152)

# TQBulletin

Publication of the National Council on Teacher Quality

---

Volume 8, Number 1  
January 26, 2007

Welcome to the Teacher Quality Bulletin!  
TQ Bulletin is a monthly e-mail newsletter brought to you by the National Council on Teacher Quality.

## **STATE-LEVEL REPORTS ON TEACHER QUALITY**

January 26, 2007

There's been a spate of useful education reports coming out of various state groups.

### **Texas** treasure trove

Out of the Longhorn State comes the most readable of the bunch, the Governor's Business Council's *Excellence in the Classroom: Bolstering Teacher Effectiveness*. The report's thankfully brief 15 pages contain a bevy of good ideas about everything from teacher prep to alternate route programs, connecting the dots between them in an admirably sensible way.

While a lot of state reports call for more and better data, too few of them articulate the need for better data as the first order of business to improve the evaluation of teachers. The report speaks eloquently about this issue: "In Texas, as in other states, teacher evaluation is currently inadequate and insufficient. It relies more on inputs and efforts than on results and effectiveness. Further, it often blesses certain faddish and unproven pedagogies, such as "learner-centered instruction." The report is right as rain on this. An important point they miss, that would have helped their case, is that Texas allows veteran teachers to go up to *five* years without an evaluation.

There are other notable suggestions, such as the idea of collecting data on teachers' other professional experience in order to collect better data on alternate route teachers and the impact their experience may have. The Governor's Business Council also takes on other vital topics not addressed often enough, like the need to collect data on the murky world of professional development--and the need to assess its effectiveness by tracking the effectiveness of teachers taking different kinds of PD. All in all, it's a nice little primer on what's needed to overhaul state policy.

---