DENVER, CO – On August 16, 2006 the U.S. Department of Education released the results of the peer review process of states’ plans for ensuring there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. Only nine states’ plans were recognized as satisfying all six criteria outlined in Department guidance. Thirty-nine states must revise and resubmit their plans by September 29, 2006. Four states did not sufficiently address any of the plan requirements and will need to revise state plans by November 1, 2006.

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) Teaching Quality and Leadership Institute announces the launch of an online tool to assist states in revising these state plans.

The HQT Tool is an online resource that streamlines access to state requirements and reviewer comments of accepted state plans. The plans can be accessed in two ways:

- By state. This option reports the entire state plan and reviewer comments for each state selected.
- By requirement. This option reports on each requirement allowing the user compare text and reviewer comments on specified requirements across selected states.

In addition, peer review decisions for all states have been gathered and are available through this tool.

The HQT Tool is part of a larger database containing policy information for all 50 states on highly qualified teacher and paraprofessional requirements as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This database also addresses the upcoming deadline for states to phase out the High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) option available to experienced teachers as one way to meet HQT requirements.

The ECS interactive NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher and Paraprofessional Database as well as the HQT Tool are available on the ECS Web site at: www.ecs.org/html/hq.htm.

Work on this database is supported through the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality (NCCTQ), a collaborative effort of the Education Commission of the States, ETS, Learning Point Associates and Vanderbilt University and funded by the US Department of Education.

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is a nationwide nonprofit organization created by the states, territories and the U.S. Congress that helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at
all levels. A nonpartisan organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

The National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality is a collaborative effort of Education Commission of the States, ETS, Learning Point Associates and Vanderbilt University.