

Wilkinson, Kris

From: Meloy, Steve
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 2:59 PM
To: grt3177@smtel.com
Cc: danvillaformontana@hotmail.com; Wilkinson, Kris; Will, Carol
Subject: NCTQ Ranking

Dear Senator Barrett,

Please find this as a response to your question about the story regarding teacher quality in Montana found in Montana's newspapers on Friday, January 30th. As I indicated in my answer last Friday, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) is applying a methodology meant for states which regulate teachers through state or national standards. Because Montana's tenure relationships with teachers evolves from policies of 433 separate school districts the National Council on Teacher Quality gave Montana an "F" and says that the state has no way of evaluating teachers as they earn tenure. In absence of a statewide evaluation process each school district establishes processes to determine teacher quality and therefore teacher tenure. In addition, each of our school districts provides professional development in a manner most consistent with its own goals, visions, policies, etc... In other words, there is a bit of an apple to orange comparison because the methodology used by the NCTQ is designed for statewide standards in jurisdictions that have little or no local control. I hope you find this helpful.

Steve

*Steve H. Meloy
Executive Secretary
Board of Public Education
P.O. Box 200601
Helena, MT 59620-0601
(406)444-6576
smeloy@mt.gov*