

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2019

Contact:
Nicole Gerber
National Council on Teacher Quality
ngerber@nctq.org
202-393-0020, ext. 712

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION STATUS IN GREAT DISTRICTS FOR GREAT TEACHERS INITIATIVE

Washington, D.C.--The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), a national leader on teacher issues, awarded the School District of Philadelphia Honorable Mention status in the *Great Districts for Great Teachers* initiative. The School District of Philadelphia earned this designation after a rigorous analysis of over 50 district policies and district datapoints found commendable work towards supporting, rewarding, and celebrating great teachers.

"One of our guiding Anchor Goals as a school district is to have high-quality educators teaching our students," said Dr. William R. Hite, Superintendent. "In recent years, we have been focused on equipping our teachers with the right resources and training so they are empowered to create safe, supportive and engaging learning environments for our students. We are grateful to the National Council on Teacher Quality for recognizing our efforts and our teachers in such a significant way."

The School District of Philadelphia has put significant effort into developing a strong system of new teacher support and an emerging career pathways system for their teachers. In addition to a strong orientation and a year-long induction program for new teachers, new teachers are also supported through the Peer Assistance & Review Program, designed to support and guide teachers in their first year of teaching through peer coaching. The district has also undertaken the difficult but much-needed work of developing teacher leadership roles that still allow teachers to remain in the classroom. Teachers who take on these roles are provided with the development and support they need to be successful.

"Teacher leadership and career pathways are not just about attracting brand new teachers but ensuring both new and veteran teachers are continuing their development," said Meredith Mehra, Deputy Chief of the Office of Teaching & Learning. "Our new Teacher Leadership Academy shows that we value the great, talented, and highly skilled teachers in the classroom, and give them opportunities to grow in that position."

NCTQ developed the criteria for this honor based on its experience stretching over a decade analyzing district human capital policies and practices as well as input from teachers and other education leaders. *Great Districts for Great Teachers* winners excel on five criteria that research indicates are related to effective teaching -- compensation, professional support, effective management and operations, career and leadership opportunities, and support services for students.

The 2018-2019 *Great Districts for Great Teachers* initiative included the review of eight large school districts across Pennsylvania. Of these eight, the School District of Philadelphia and Coatesville Area School District have been awarded Honorable Mention status and one district—Council Rock School District—has been named a winner. All participating districts received customized analysis and recommendations on their teacher policies.

Previous *Great Districts for Great Teachers* winners include Boston Public Schools, Broward County School District (Florida), Denver Public Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools, Gwinnett County Public Schools (Georgia), New York City Public Schools, Pinellas County School District (Florida), and Pittsburgh Public Schools. Previous districts awarded Honorable Mention status include Duval County Public Schools (Florida), Indianapolis Public Schools, Newark Public Schools, and the School District of Osceola County (Florida).

More details about the program can be found at <http://www.greatdistricts.org>.

For additional information or to arrange an interview with School District of Philadelphia Superintendent Dr. William Hite, please contact Megan Lello at mlello@philasd.org or 215-400-6887. To arrange an interview with NCTQ, please contact Nicole Gerber at ngerber@nctq.org or 202-393-0020, ext. 712.

###