
Economic Policy Institute

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ADVISORY FOR: Thursday, December 11, 2003, 10 A.M. (EST)

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DEC. 11 CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING

DEFINING TEACHER QUALITY

How States and Schools Are Responding To No Child Left Behind

The federal No Child Left Behind Act mandates school systems to have highly qualified teachers in every classroom. What is a “highly qualified” teacher, and how can we ensure an adequate supply? On Thursday, December 11, Congressman George Miller and the Economic Policy Institute will sponsor a briefing that will shed much-needed light on these issues. As demonstrated in EPI’s latest education report – *Teacher Quality: Understanding the Effectiveness of Teacher Attributes* by Jennifer King Rice – teacher quality proves to be the most important school-related factor in how well students learn. A panel at the briefing will also detail the struggles and success of various states and school systems, which are working to ensure they can produce and keep quality teachers.

Leading the discussion will be four nationally recognized experts on teacher quality and training:

- ◆ **Jennifer King Rice**, Author of *Teacher Quality* as well as a University of Maryland professor and EPI research associate, will discuss the key findings of her research report on teacher quality.
- ◆ **Ted Stilwill**, President of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Director of Education for the State of Iowa, will discuss his state’s promotion of advanced teaching skills through a skill-based pay system for teachers, and professional development efforts.
- ◆ **Eric Hirsch**, Senior Director for Policy at the Southeast Center for Teaching Quality, will review the obstacles and successes of states in implementing *No Child Left Behind*.
- ◆ **Jerry Weast**, Superintendent, Montgomery County (Md.) Schools, will share his insights on the research evidence and the highly regarded program in his school district.

WHAT: Briefing on teacher quality, especially in the context of the federal No Child Left Behind Act

WHEN: Thursday, December 11, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Room 2261, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC

RSVP: Communications Department of EPI, (202) 775-8810

The Economic Policy Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan economic think tank founded in 1986. The Institute can found on the web at <http://www.epinet.org>.