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TEACHER QUALITY CRISIS

FACT SHEET

Research conducted by the Milken Family Foundation and other leading institutions* on the teaching profession in the U.S. demonstrates the crisis facing our educational system. The findings include:

- Secondary and elementary schools will need to hire 2.45 million new teachers by the end of the decade. Unfortunately, they will experience a human capital shortage of 900,000 or more than a third.
- The lowest paid school administrators earn more than the highest paid teachers. Teachers must leave the profession to earn top salaries.
- The median age of teachers has risen from 33 in 1976 to 44 today.
- In a survey of high school students, only 14 percent expressed “a great deal of interest” in teaching as a career. 39 percent responded “no interest at all.”
- Most state teacher licensing exams require no higher than 8th – 10th grade quantitative and verbal skill levels. Fewer than 25 percent require a passing score in reading, writing or math above the 25th percentile.
- Nearly 33 percent of all secondary school teachers who teach math do not have a major or a minor in math, math education or a related subject. 57 percent of chemistry, physics, earth and space science instructors do not have a major or minor in the subject.
- Every dollar spent to support improving teacher quality results in greater improvement in student achievement than when spent on any other education resource.
- Education, training and skills applications account for approximately 75 percent of U.S. wealth and economic growth.

**Source information is available upon request from the Milken Family Foundation.*