

MAKING THE GRADE



EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM

Helping Teachers Help Students Achieve

There's a conversation taking place in our state and across the country that's focused on the most important element to assure a high quality education for every child – effective teaching in every classroom.

Teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members and union leaders are joining parents, community leaders and policymakers in discussions to sort out the best way to build on the great academic gains our students have made and provide the opportunities and infrastructure necessary to assure that every school child benefits from an effective teacher every day.

Groundbreaking work is happening in our own state through a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and U.S. Department of Education- funded project in the Pittsburgh Public Schools as well as a pilot project led by the PA Department of Education in the Allentown, Cornell, Mohawk Area school districts and the Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5. The PA Department of Education (PDE) recently announced that it will expand the pilot in the coming school year and is seeking up to 100 school districts and local education agencies to volunteer and roll up their sleeves to work with PDE to refine the tools used in the first pilot and help develop a new teacher evaluation system. Taking these practices to sound public policies will help teachers hone their skills and succeed in the classroom as well as have a positive impact on PA's school children for many years to come.

To check out some of our early thinking we developed last year on the topic, please visit our web site and review Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement:

http://www.papartnerships.org/publication_files/ppc-teacher-effectiveness.pdf

We will be monitoring action in Pennsylvania and around the nation and will share as we learn what's happening and the impact it can have on school children in our state. Stay tuned for more updates from ***Making the Grade: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom.***

What is effective teaching?

While there are many intangibles that contribute to great teaching, a working definition is: an effective teacher ensures that each child learns at least a year's worth of knowledge for every year spent in the classroom.

Making the Grade: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom is Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's project designed to create awareness about the importance of an effective teacher in every classroom and advance the public policies required to assure that every child benefits from effective teaching every school day.

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Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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