

MAKING THE GRADE



EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN EVERY CLASSROOM Pennsylvania Gets Poor Grade on Existing Efforts to Create Effective Teachers

A new report from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) confirms what many in Pennsylvania already know: We have a lot of work ahead of us in putting an effective teacher in every classroom.

The report, which examined each state's efforts to prepare, retain and reward effective teachers, gave the commonwealth a grade of D+ for its efforts. The NCTQ says Pennsylvania's progress in improving teacher effectiveness has been only "moderate" so far.

Among the shortcomings identified:

- Pennsylvania does not have a uniform, statewide policy that connects professional development with teacher evaluations.
- Objective evidence of student learning is not a criteria in teacher evaluations.
- Teachers who are deemed "unsatisfactory" are not provided with improvements plans.
- There is a lack of school-level data that can help ensure the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

The report also characterizes Pennsylvania's existing teacher evaluation process, which merely labels teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, as "inadequate." It recommends the commonwealth use multiple categories that better define performance.

The good news is we know how to address these deficiencies. The state Department of Education already is working toward a better process for evaluating teachers as a way to boost teacher effectiveness and legislative discussions to revise teacher evaluations are taking place.

Stay tuned for more updates from ***Making the Grade: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom.***

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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 every child benefits from effective teaching every school day.

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