

MAKING THE GRADE



EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM

'Race to the Top' Will Aid Pennsylvania's Efforts to Boost Teacher Effectiveness

Pennsylvania's ongoing efforts to put an effective teacher in every classroom received a welcome boost recently from the U.S. Department of Education.

Just days ago, Pennsylvania was awarded \$41.3 million in federal "Race to the Top" funding to pursue innovations in K-12 public education. Governor Tom Corbett said "a significant focus" of the funding will be statewide implementation of more substantive, meaningful methods for evaluating teachers.

Improved teacher evaluations are a key component of improving teacher effectiveness. High-quality evaluations help teachers identify their classroom strengths, as well as areas where more work is needed, and they give teachers the direction required for professional growth.

The state Department of Education already has signed up more than 100 education entities, including about 80 school districts, for a new teacher and principal evaluation pilot program that begins this year. The "Race to the Top" funds will help advance that effort.

The goal of the pilot is to build a meaningful evaluation system that can help educators and students reach their full potential in the classroom. Information and feedback from the pilot program will be used to develop a more robust evaluation system that can be used statewide in the 2012-13 school year.

The new year promises to be a pivotal one for improving teacher effectiveness. The challenge in the months ahead will be to build on our progress so we can ensure every child in every classroom benefits from an effective teacher.

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Grade" ...](#)

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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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Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
116 Pine Street, Suite 430
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-236-5680 – 800-257-2030

www.papartnerships.org