

MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM



Teachers Increasingly Supportive of More Detailed Evaluations

Just days after Pennsylvania enacted a new law to drastically improve the substance and quality of teacher evaluations, a national report was released showing teachers are becoming strong supporters of overhauling outdated evaluations.

“Overall, teachers are feeling better about evaluation,” [states the report](#), issued by Education Sector. Compared to just five years ago, teachers today “are more likely to say their evaluation was useful and effective and less likely to say it was just a formality.”

The report found 78 percent of teachers in a nationwide survey think evaluations are being done carefully by school administrators, and 76 percent say the criteria being used to gauge their job performance is fair.

The findings reflect what has been occurring in Pennsylvania in recent years as the state Department of Education implemented pilot programs aimed at improving teacher evaluations. Teachers who took part in the pilots, which laid the foundation for the state’s new evaluation system, often turned from skeptics to supporters.

In a [recent news story on the new evaluations](#), one pilot participant credited the updated evaluations as being “very specific,” noting “as a teacher, I want specific feedback.” Another said the revamped evaluations “really led to a very rich discussion” on classroom performance. And the head of Pennsylvania’s largest teachers’ union said the new evaluation system “shows that we can craft good public policy when we work together and do what is right for the students in our classrooms and the educators who commit to be the best professionals they can be.”

These educators know that better evaluations can be the catalyst for better classroom performance among teachers and students.

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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