

MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM



More Evidence Links Quality Evaluations and Effective Teaching

As Pennsylvania ramps up its new teacher evaluation system for the 2013-14 school year, we are seeing yet another sign of the benefits high-quality evaluations can have on teacher performance in the classroom.

The latest evidence comes from public schools in New York City, where results of a two-year teacher evaluation pilot program brought about marked improvements in teacher performance. Hundreds of city teachers who took part in the pilot program, which involved ongoing feedback about their performance, [became better teachers as a result.](#)

“Across all categories, from the weakest to the strongest, we saw teacher improvement,” explained Dennis Walcott, the chancellor of the New York City Department of Education.

The New York City teacher evaluation model is based on a framework for effective teaching that Pennsylvania used in its statewide pilots and plans to incorporate into the new evaluation system that will be in place for all of the commonwealth’s public school districts next year.

Just days after the positive results of New York City’s teacher evaluation pilot were announced, *The New York Times* weighed in with [an editorial in praise of more rigorous and meaningful teacher evaluation systems.](#) “At their best, these evaluation systems are based on the idea that teaching is difficult to master and that high-performers tend to get that way through intensive feedback and help from colleagues,” the Times wrote.

Thankfully, there seems to be a growing awareness of how more substantive teacher evaluations can improve teacher effectiveness and ultimately boost student performance.

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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