



## The Future Looks Bright for More Effective Teaching in Pennsylvania

Students across Pennsylvania headed back to the classroom in recent days to start another school year, prompting parents to reminisce about how far their children have come and speculate on what their futures might hold.

When it comes to efforts to improve teacher effectiveness in the commonwealth, we've come a long way since the last school year – and the future is very promising.

Over the summer, Pennsylvania enacted a new law that will bring more informative, robust teacher evaluations to the majority of our public schools so students can benefit from more effective classroom instruction. The state Department of Education will be putting the finishing touches on the new evaluation system this year, so it will be ready for the 2013-14 school year.

The new evaluations will go beyond merely categorizing teachers as “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” by giving them substantive feedback they can use to improve in the classroom – similar to the constructive feedback we rely on our teachers to give their students so they can improve.

If you're among the educators, business leaders, parents and taxpayers who helped make these new evaluations a reality, you can appreciate what a great improvement is coming for our public schools and students. Our progress has been impressive, and the future looks brighter for our students, teachers and schools.

If you're new to the teacher effectiveness discussion, you can find some homework to bring you up to speed by visiting our [“Making the Grade” website](#). We think you'll agree Pennsylvania is on a strong path toward the goal of ensuring every student in every classroom benefits from an effective teacher.

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

[To Learn More About “Making the Grade” ...](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

*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.

*We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.*

[Find PPC on Facebook](#)

[Follow PPC on Twitter](#)

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

717-236-5680 – 800-257-2030

[www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org)