

MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM



A New School Year Brings A Better Way to Evaluate Pennsylvania's Teachers

As students across Pennsylvania head back to the classroom to begin a new school year, their teachers are facing some exciting changes, too.

This year marks the roll out of a new, statewide educator evaluation system designed to help teachers perform better so their students can achieve more in the classroom. The new evaluations will give our educators substantive feedback they can use to improve in the classroom – similar to the constructive feedback we rely on teachers to give their students so they can improve.

The new educator evaluations have an important link to another positive change taking place in our public schools: the ongoing implementation of the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Pennsylvania's student assessments – including the Keystone Exams being used at the high school level and the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests used in grades 3 through 8 – will be aligned to the core standards and will be used as one of several measures to evaluate educators.

This link between the PA Core Standards and teacher evaluations is important because the more rigorous academic standards require teachers to build on their existing classroom skills and take new approaches to teaching. Using assessments aligned to the PA Core Standards – and using the results of those assessments in educator evaluations – helps ensure teachers are effectively teaching to the standards.

In simple terms, it's about alignment. When we have high-quality academic standards along with assessments aligned to those standards, we can use those assessments to effectively gauge the progress of students **and** their teachers, helping both groups boost their performance in the classroom.

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

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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.

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

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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