

# MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN  
EVERY CLASSROOM



## PA's Educators Appreciate the Benefits of Improved Teacher Evaluations

Before Pennsylvania enacted a new, better system for evaluating teachers last year, it spent years fine-tuning the evaluations through pilot programs involving about 24,000 teachers in hundreds of school districts and some charter schools.

While some of those teachers came into the process with skepticism, they soon came to understand the benefits of the improved evaluations. The goal was not to tear down teachers, but to build their skills to aid student achievement.

Jim Moczydlowski, an elementary school principal in Bucks County's Quakertown Community School District, said the pilot programs shifted evaluations away from "something that happens to a teacher" to "something that a teacher participates in and owns."

Because the pilots focused on agreed upon goals for teacher performance, Moczydlowski said his school was able to "target areas for teacher development that will have a direct impact on student learning."

John F. Berry, a kindergarten teacher in Lancaster County's Penn Manor School District, said he had seen too many well-intentioned efforts to help teachers "get so wrapped up in theory, politics and red tape that by the time they reach us in the field, they are no longer useful." But as the pilot process unfolded, Berry said he felt "fortunate" to help develop the new teacher evaluation system.

Both these educators came to appreciate the benefits of using robust, informative evaluations to make all of our teachers more effective so all of our students can achieve.

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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