



## We Are All In This Together: Why Teacher Effectiveness Is A Team Effort

Pennsylvania's new system for evaluating teachers is more comprehensive than previous evaluation methods for several reasons, including its use of school building-level performance data.

Unlike previous evaluation methods used in the commonwealth, which typically relied solely on classroom observation, the new evaluation system incorporates multiple measures of student achievement to account for half of a teacher's overall evaluation. Fifteen percent of a teacher's overall evaluation will come from building-wide measures of student achievement, such as standardized test results, Advanced Placement course participation, attendance, and graduation and promotion rates.

Factoring building-level measures such as these into a teacher's evaluation recognizes that student achievement is a collaborative effort among educators, while also gauging the impact a specific teacher is having on students.

As a top Pennsylvania Department of Education official [explained in a recent news story](#):

"Everybody is responsible in that (school) building for the achievement of the child. ... Everybody participates in setting a good learning environment, having children wanting to come to school."

In other words, our new teacher evaluation system more accurately reflects that educating a child is a team effort.

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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