

MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM



Keeping Our Focus As Teacher Evaluations Move Forward

Pennsylvania is among several states implementing better teacher evaluations as a means of improving teacher effectiveness and, ultimately, boosting student achievement.

But the recent passage of legislation designed to give our teachers more useful, constructive evaluations does not mark the end of the effort to help our teachers, students and schools. More hard work and important discussions lie ahead as our public schools begin using the evaluations to help teachers perform better in the classroom.

[A new report from the American Enterprise Institute](#) offers insight into some of the challenges Pennsylvania and other states could face as teacher evaluations are rolled out, and it suggests goals policymakers, educators and advocates should always keep in mind. Among them:

- Maintain a clear vision about the issues new evaluations are meant to address.
- Focus on teacher improvement rather than simply using evaluations to “deselect” underperforming teachers.
- Encourage and respect innovation and don’t mistake new processes and systems as substitutes for cultural change.
- Look at the entire “education ecosystem,” including areas like teacher preparation, standards and assessments, and charter schools.

Fortunately, Pennsylvania already has made many of these issues part of our ongoing teacher effectiveness dialogue. As teacher evaluations move into the statewide implementation phase, we need to make sure these important issues remain part of the broader discussion.

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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