

Effective Teaching for Every Child!

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PHILLY STUDENTS, FAMILIES & TEACHERS GRADE TEACHER CONTRACT

PHILADELPHIA—The Effective Teaching Campaign announced their grades for the new teacher contract at a press conference today. Students, parents, teachers, and other members of the Effective Teaching Campaign noted progress on three fronts, but little to address the crippling teacher turnover rates at some neighborhood schools.. The group gathered in front of the School District Building and issued the following letter grades on 4 key issues:

1. Site Selection: **B+**
2. Stronger Incentives: **D**
3. Standards and Evaluations: **A-**
4. Professional Development: **B**

“Eight months ago we came together to identify the most important things the contract could do to move reform forward in neighborhood schools. Today, we are here to hand out that Report Card,” said Good Schools advocate Jon Cetel. “We look forward now to working with the District and the PFT to monitor implementation and to find ways to get and keep teachers at hard-to-staff schools.”

The Effective Teaching Campaign rewarded improvements made to Site Selection with a “B+.” “Allowing school communities to help select their teachers is important for effective teaching,” said William Browning, a parent and grandparent of District students. The practice is now required, for the first time, for all teachers in 90 Schools, with leadership teams of parents and teachers being developed to improve the selection process.

The contract does not include students in the selection process, however, which kept it from earning a higher mark. “Excluding students from Site Selection at the high school level makes it hard for the right teachers to be in the right schools,” explained Shania Morris, a student at Samuel B. Huey School. “The union and District missed a critical opportunity to hear the student voice in this process.”

Effective Teaching gave its lowest grade, a “D,” to the contract’s omission of effective incentives to make low-performing schools more attractive places to work. “Now that we’ve opened the door for so many schools for site selection, we’re looking forward to working with the District and the union to create some incentives that will really draw and retain teachers at hard-to-staff schools,” says Brian Armstead, Director of Civic Engagement at the Philadelphia Education Fund.

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The Effective Teaching Campaign (phillyTQE.org) is 25 organizations and individuals who believe in the power of education to change lives. The Campaign was formed to address the urgent need for effective teachers and stable staffing patterns in all Philadelphia schools. They implore District, civic, business leaders, parents, students and all community residents to add their voices, to make Philadelphia a city where education comes first and high-quality teaching and learning and effective school leadership is expected and supported.