

Dear Members and Colleagues:

From time to time CASCD takes a position on timely and relevant issues directly relating to learning and teaching. This is one such time!

There has been significant discussion about the development of a new teacher evaluation system in Connecticut and across the nation. In response to these recent discussions CASCD strongly urges the adoption of a new teacher evaluation program that includes high quality support for teachers and administrators. We have developed the following position statement to this effect.

Please take the time to read and distribute this position statement on Teacher Evaluation among your colleagues and friends.

Public Act 10-111 mandates adoption of guidelines for a model teacher evaluation system by July 1, 2013. CASCD believes change to the current evaluation system is necessary and needs to be carefully considered.

CASCD believes that any and all programs must be in support of educating the Whole Child in a positive learning environment with high expectations for all learners. Developing highly effective teachers who elicit measurable growth in student achievement is paramount. The link between educator effectiveness and student learning is undeniable.

CASCD commends the legislature for requiring multiple indicators of student academic growth in the new plan. Dependence on standardized assessment as the sole measure of performance is detrimental to teacher development and improvement.

CASCD supports a teacher evaluation plan that:

1. Evaluates teachers based on multiple measures of student growth;
2. Evaluates teacher performance based on use of successful research-based instructional practices;

3. Evaluates teachers based on professionalism with peers, families, and community;
4. Improves developing teachers, supports effective teachers, and has a clear path for dismissal of ineffective teachers;
5. Is aligned with an effective supervision and training program for administrators; and
6. Clearly defines “effective teacher” based on research.

CASCD strongly urges the adoption of a new teacher evaluation program that includes high quality support for teachers and administrators.