



# PARTNERS POST

Our Schools • Our Communities • Our Future

Your Partners for Public Education Newsletter

[www.partnersforpubliced.org](http://www.partnersforpubliced.org)

Pennsylvania's public schools are among the best in the nation. That's because of parents, community leaders, elected officials, and educators – working together. The public schools are our schools. They serve our communities. And they shape our future.

**We are all Partners For Public Education.  
Thank you for being a Partner.**



## TEACHERS

### Our Nation's Most Trusted Professionals

Chances are, you know your children's teachers – and you trust them. Inside the classroom, you talk with them, meet with them, and work as a partner with them.

As Partners, we value people who teach in our public schools, we work hard to connect with teachers and forge strong relationships – and we want to make those relationships even stronger.

Teachers are among the most trusted professionals in Pennsylvania – and across the nation. In fact, Americans continue to rank teachers among the most honest and ethical professionals in our society, above doctors, police officers, clergy, and judges (Gallup's Annual Honesty and Ethics Survey).



According to Gallup, seven out of 10 Americans have confidence in teachers and eight out of 10 parents give their community public schools a letter grade of "A" or "B."

In Pennsylvania, this confidence is well-earned. Across the state, Pennsylvanians have good reason to be proud of public schools.

As Partners, we know how important it is to continue to have great public schools. The

teachers we trust and respect are an important part of meeting that goal.

So partner with teachers and other community members to make our public schools a success.

Join today at

[www.partnersforpubliced.org](http://www.partnersforpubliced.org)

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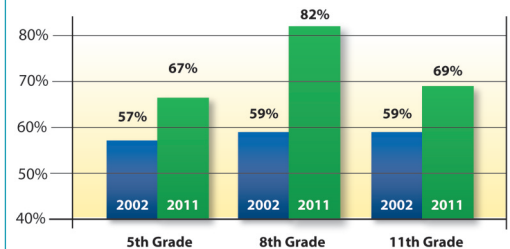
Your Schools, Your Future  
From the Hill  
Partners in Action

## DID YOU KNOW?

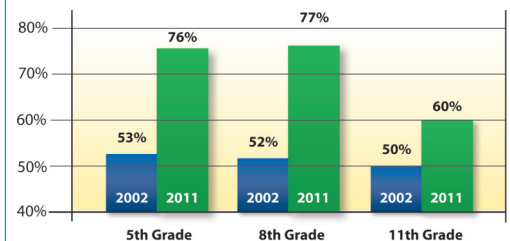
Pennsylvania's public schools are among the best in the nation.

On Pennsylvania's standardized test, the PSSA, the percentage of students scoring "proficient" in reading and math increased dramatically between 2002 and 2011.

### % of Students Proficient in Reading



### % of Students Proficient in Math



Learn more at [www.partnersforpubliced.org](http://www.partnersforpubliced.org)

# Know the Signs of Bullying

**B**ullying has become a hot topic in the media and schools recently as bullies find new ways to target and intimidate their victims. The consequences of bullying have been felt in communities across the country.

The rise of social media and children's access to the Internet and mobile technology have led to new and more sophisticated ways for bullies to reach their victims. Victims of bullying cannot retreat to the safety of their homes at the end of the day anymore. Cell phones and social media websites make it easier for bullies to contact

and publicly intimidate their victims at any time.

Despite the attention bullying has gotten recently, many children who are the victims of bullying remain reluctant to discuss it with their parents. These children may either be embarrassed or think that there is nothing their parents can do to stop it. In some cases, these children may even think that their parents would not understand and simply tell them that bullying is a natural part of growing up. However, it is important for parents and other adults to

recognize the signs of bullying and respond in a supportive way.

Taking a stand against bullying and supporting children who have been bullied is the best way to prevent future tragedies. No child should have to endure the pain of being bullied, and no child should be without the support necessary to prevent him or her from becoming a bully. Knowing the warning signs and acting in the best interest of your child are important first steps toward safer, healthier schools for our children.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### Good News about Partners

**D**avid Taylor is a math teacher. He is a community leader. And he knows just how important public schools are in his community.



**Dave Taylor**  
South Fayette

What he has learned over the past few months is that many people who live in his school district feel the same way.

"I love our public schools, and I figured that most of my friends and neighbors do, too," Taylor said. "But, until I started to talk about Partners for Public Education, I had no idea just how eager people would be to join and help out."

Taylor and his colleagues in South Fayette School District have been speaking out about Partners for Public Education—and the response has been extraordinary. They have already signed up a few dozen members.

"The response has been amazing," Taylor said. "Stay tuned, because we're just getting started."

## More Resources on Bullying

The Highmark Foundation [www.bullyingpreventioninstitute.org](http://www.bullyingpreventioninstitute.org) has many resources for parents and suggests parents look for some or all of the following signs of bullying:

- Your child comes home with damaged or missing pieces of clothing, books, or other belongings.
- Your child has unexplained bruises, cuts, or scratches.
- Your child seems afraid of going to school, walking to and from school, riding the school bus, or taking part in organized activities with peers.
- Your child appears sad, moody, teary, or depressed when he or she comes home.
- Your child frequently appears anxious and/or suffers from low self-esteem.

## Your Schools, Your Future

**H**ave you wondered why your local school is cutting programs, increasing class sizes, eliminating tutoring programs and staff?

It's because of unprecedented cuts in state funding for public education. In 2011, budget cuts slashed \$860 million in state support. The governor's proposed 2012 budget would cut even more. Now, school districts are struggling to keep offering the kinds of programs that really help students learn.

It takes resources to pay for excellent schools. When state funding cuts take resources away, the students who learn in our public schools feel the consequences.

Learn more about cuts to your school at [www.savepaschools.org](http://www.savepaschools.org)

## FROM THE HILL The Latest News



### What happens in the state Capitol makes a difference in our public schools.

**O**n Feb. 1, state Rep. Eugene DePasquale and state Sen. Judy Schwank introduced legislation to help Pennsylvania's most struggling schools. Their Priority Assistance Grant for Education (PAGE) program would direct \$30 million to 18 school districts that need it most.

The new state funds could be used to fund *Solutions That Work* in schools, like full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, tutoring, school safety, and parent involvement.

All of Pennsylvania's children deserve to have access to an excellent public school. The PAGE program is the right place to start.

Learn more and watch a video at [www.solutionsthatworkpa.org](http://www.solutionsthatworkpa.org).

## PARTNERS IN ACTION

### What do Partners do?

**A**s Partners for Public Education membership grows, you'll see features about what Partners are doing to support their schools.

That work has already begun, as Partners are working with their local schools to visit classrooms as volunteers, help with fundraisers, and speak out about the great work their public schools are doing.



[www.partnersforpubliced.org](http://www.partnersforpubliced.org)

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