

# Executive Director's Notepad . . .

## Pennsylvania Principals – Leadership That is Making a Difference

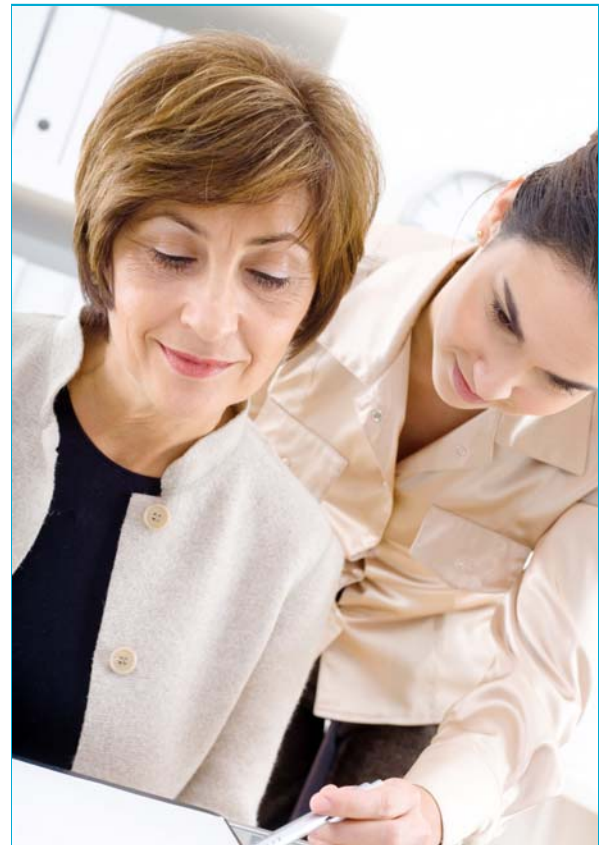


From the desk of  
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Study after study indicates that school leadership is a critical factor in successful schools. A school will not succeed and student achievement will not increase without competent, well-trained school principals leading the way. Pennsylvania's recent investment in an Inspired Leadership Program is based upon this premise. However, even before this program has had time to influence outcomes, Pennsylvania providers were leading the way in producing a core of strong, well-trained leaders for our schools. The results below speak to the quality and competence of Pennsylvania principals and each of us should be proud to be an important part of leadership that's making a difference.

*With that said, let's celebrate! Here are my top 10 reasons you should be proud to be a Pennsylvania principal:*

1. Pennsylvania schools rank fourth in graduation rate of all schools in the U.S. (*Education Week, Educational Research Center*). We were also found to be in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in school accountability, 86<sup>th</sup> percentile in establishing early foundations for students and 10<sup>th</sup> in Chance of Success for our Graduates (*Quality Counts*).
2. In matters of achievement not only did Pennsylvania rank seventh in fourth-grade math, sixth in fourth-grade reading and eighth in eighth-grade math and reading scores; but we also ranked sixth in fourth-grade math, fifth in fourth-grade reading, fifth in eighth-grade math and second in eighth-grade reading gains throughout the nation (*Quality Counts*).
3. Pennsylvania ranked fifth overall in the *Quality Counts Achievement Index*, which is a measure of current levels of improvement over time and equity for poor and non-poor students.
4. Pennsylvania ranked fourth in overall gains in achievement in the nation (*Quality Counts*).
5. According to data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Pennsylvania was one of only five states to show gains in the top quartile of students on the test.
6. Pennsylvania was also one of only five states to show gains in the bottom quartile of students on the NAEP test.
7. Pennsylvania was the only state in the nation to show gains in two quartiles (top & bottom) of the NAEP test.
8. Pennsylvania principals are the largest professional affiliate membership in the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) with 88 percent of eligible membership within the state – an outstanding demonstration of professional commitment.



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9. Pennsylvania principals are the largest professional affiliate membership in the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) with 97.61 percent of eligible membership in the state – a factor that makes Pennsylvania a key player in prompting national legislation important to the support of our students.
10. None of these achievements would have been possible without outstanding school principals throughout the state. Your leadership is making a difference.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**