



Empowering Effective Teachers

Community Engagement Group Update

Hillsborough Education Foundation

Issue 12

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Acronyms

Every industry has their own codes, initials, and shorthand. Here are some definitions to help you get familiar with common ones.

BMGF = Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

EET = Empowering Effective Teachers

HCPS = Hillsborough County Public Schools

HEF = Hillsborough Education Foundation

MET = Measures of Effective Teachers

RTT = Race to the Top

Value Added =

The enhancement that students achieve (to knowledge, skills abilities and other attributes) as a result of their teachers' extra efforts; also the extra resources provided to teachers to add to their students' learning experience.

Dear Cris,

This is an interesting TED talk by Bill Gates. He is very critical of state budgeting practices and shares some troubling trends from a high level perspective. As he states, this is affecting education funding as well. He uses California in most of his examples, but as he points out, the practices are in place in most states. See the video titled, [How state budgets are breaking US schools](#) here.

Measures of Effective Teachers (MET)

The "small" (\$2M) grant that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) gave the school district is to use technology (e.g. videography of classrooms, teachers, and students' interactions) to benchmark what appears to make teachers effective.

In a review of the preliminary report from the MET Project, Jesse Rothstein of the University of California, Berkeley finds "troubling indications that the project's conclusions were predetermined." The preliminary MET results contain "important warning signs" against the use of value-added scores for high-stakes teacher evaluations. Rothstein writes that the data indicate a teachers' value-added for a state test is actually not strongly related to her effectiveness in a broader sense. [Read the entire study here.](#)

Staying Connected

Here are recent articles and media hits around developments in teacher effectiveness and related topics:

Parent' input into teachers' evaluations a tricky issue

St. Pete Times

Legislators hint at the evaluations as part of reforms. But how

Quick Links...

[Community Engagement Group](#)

[HCPS Empowering Effective Teachers](#)

[HEF Empowering Effective Teachers](#)

[Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

Contact Information

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objective could they be?

TAMPA - When asked to describe a good teacher, John Leroe thinks of his mother. "She was an English teacher for 46 years," said the father of three in Citrus Park. "She was very creative, and she encouraged her students to be creative. She may have been a little too lenient. But her students did very well." [Read more ...](#)

Teacher pay bill is back, but less scary than in 2010

St. Pete Times

As legislators study changes in how teachers are fired, paid and evaluated, a calm tone replaces last year's confrontation over the measure. [Read more ...](#)

Raising school performance without spending more

By Bill Gates, Washington Post

As the nation's governors gather in Washington for their annual meeting, they are grappling with more than state budget deficits. They're confronting deep education deficits as well. [Read more ...](#)

Experts see perils in Hillsborough's teacher evaluation plans

St. Pete Times

TAMPA - Everyone seems to have a bright idea in the tug-of-war to fix America's public schools. Pay teachers more. Adopt a common curriculum. Give parents a voucher and let them pick the school. [Read more ...](#)

Next Meeting - Save the Date

The next Community Engagement Group is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2011 at Noon. It will be at our offices: 2306 North Howard Avenue, Tampa 33607.

Click [here](#) to RSVP to Desiree by Thursday, May 12th.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,



Bill Hoffman
Hillsborough Education Foundation