

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Babette Josephs

DATE: April 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Victory Academies

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that amends the Public School Code of 1949 (Act 14 of 1949) by establishing *Victory Academies* – a four-year pilot program that will implement additional educational supports including expanded instruction, assessment, tutoring, and student & family services in existing public schools across the Commonwealth.

Schools designated as a Victory Academy will be those public elementary or secondary schools classified as the lowest achieving schools in the Commonwealth, per the most recent assessment for which data is available and posted on the Department of Education’s publicly accessible internet website. Under this pilot program, school districts would be required to reorganize the governing structure and operation of the lowest achieving schools in order to achieve optimum scholastic performance.

The Victory Academies will submit performance evaluations at the end of each school year and at the conclusion of the pilot program, a study will be conducted to determine the program’s effectiveness. This legislation is the companion to Senate Bill 930. Please contact Ms. Jennifer Belz in my Harrisburg office at JBelz@pahouse.net or at (717) 787-8529 to co-sponsor this important legislation. Thank you!