



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator Anthony H. Williams

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DATE: November 23, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Anthony H. Williams

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: **Academic Performance Incentives**

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to amend the Public School Code, 24 P.S. §25-2595, for the purpose of establishing an Academic Performance Incentives program. This bill would provide a means for the Commonwealth to award educators and school entities that meet particular academic achievement and performance standards.

According to my legislation, any school entity that employs programs or practices meeting certain criteria will qualify for an incentive payment, to be applied to one or more of the following uses: (1) Instructional equipment and materials; (2) Initiatives which involve parents and families in the school; (3) Assistance or advancement of curricular and instructional improvements; and (4) Other uses in research-based programs, strategies and practices that improve student academic performance or enhance the instruction of students in the school. A portion of the incentive payment must be used for planning, delivery and assessment of the school's instructional program (including staff development), as well as for direct award payments to professional employees of the school. Qualifying criteria will include, but not be limited to, educator job performance, teacher evaluations, administrator recommendations, parental response, PVAAS data, student achievement and other school-performance measures. When a school entity and its educators perform well, the Commonwealth should provide a means for the school entity to both maintain the practices which lead to such high student achievement and to reward its high-performing educators.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Shannon A. Sargent, Esq., at 787-5970 or email ssargent@pasenate.com.