

## Sample Letter to the Editor

Hope Street Group's pilot project in Policy 2.0 brought together a team of educators and other professionals to develop recommendations for improving teacher evaluation systems. Their work resulted in the report, "Policy 2.0: Using Open Innovation to Reform Teacher Evaluation Systems." Become an agent for change by promoting the team's work in your community.

Letters to the Editor are written in response to an article or op-ed previously printed in a newspaper. They should be submitted within days of the article and relate to the article's content. Check your local paper for specific rules, but generally letters to the editor are limited to 250-350 words. The letter may be customized, but any underlined information must be changed to reflect your specific data.

To the Editor:

The article, title, that appeared on date, [explain what you are responding to that was printed such as misrepresented teachers' views on evaluation, or did not give the full picture of views on evaluation, or missed an important opportunity to highlight a key report developed with teachers and other professionals...]

The evidence is clear: ensuring a great teacher is at the front of the classroom is one of the best things we can do to help students excel academically. However, the reality is that we do not know which teachers are effective because we do not know how to appropriately measure that quality—many current teacher evaluation systems are inadequate. In my personal experience as a teacher at Lakeview Middle School, our evaluations do not sufficiently measure how we are helping our students, nor do they serve to identify teachers who may be in need of further support. [share personal story, if possible, about weak evaluation system]

For the past several months, I have been working with Hope Street Group, a national non-profit organization working on education reform, and educators and professionals from across the country, to develop recommendations for improving these evaluation systems. The resulting report, "Policy 2.0: Using Open Innovation to Reform Teacher Evaluation Systems" calls for rigorous evaluations that include objective measures of student achievement, coupled with clearly defined expectations and strong supports for improving teachers' capacity to instruct their students, and using those evaluations to better support teachers, as well as inform hiring, firing and tenure decisions. The full report may be found at [www.hopestreetgroup.org](http://www.hopestreetgroup.org).

I encourage the Lakeview County School System to adopt our recommendations for stronger teacher evaluations; I believe that implementing a more effective system of evaluating teachers will make a lasting difference for the students and teachers of Lakeview County.

-Jackie Tyler  
Lakeview Middle School