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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Chairman, Education Committee
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Caucuses

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, Member
Board of Directors

PA Historical and Museum Commission
Black History Advisory Committee, Member

PA Legislative Black Caucus, Member

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative James R. Roebuck *JRR*

DATE: March 1, 2010

RE: Co-Sponsorship Memo - School-Wide Positive Behavioral Support

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution requiring the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the School-Wide Positive Behavioral Support program in public schools. Based on this report, the Committee provides recommendations for how to best expand and fund the program in Pennsylvania through appropriate legislative actions.

In response to the cited negative and disruptive behaviors in schools, School-Wide Positive Behavioral Support can help address this issue by identifying and preventing behavioral problems. With the objective of establishing a predictable and positive school environment, the program sets behavioral expectations through collective prevention and intervention, group service and support, individual social and emotional support. As similar programs in other states demonstrate, a significant reduction in disciplinary referrals has led to an increased academic performance in disciplines such as math.

The assessment of School-Wide Positive Behavioral Support is crucial to proposing a measure aimed at reducing negative behaviors because a stable school environment is directly linked to students' improved academic performance. The resolution directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of School-Wide Positive Behavior Support in states where it has been implemented, identify costs and existing funding sources, recommend on how to expand and fund the program in Pennsylvania and compile and distribute a report for the House of Representatives.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Marlena Miller at 717-787-7044 or by email at mmmiller@pahouse.net

Thank you for your support.

JRR:mmmm