Pennsylvania Department of Education

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

June 21, 2013

Penn\*Link

TO: Superintendents

Charter CEOs

Cyber Charter CEOs

CTC Directors

IU Executive Directors

FROM: David Volkman

Acting Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Teachscape Focus Licenses for Evaluators

Teachscape Focus (formerly Teachscape Framework for Teaching Proficiency System) is an online professional development course that assists evaluators in honing their skills in collecting evidence during classroom observations.  Additionally, evaluators use Teachscape Focus to sharpen their abilities to apply the evidence to the Danielson Framework for Teaching, provide actionable feedback to teachers, and determine the final overall performance rating in each domain.

The course has three components: a deep-dive into the domains and components of the Danielson Framework; scoring practice opportunities to apply these skills with classroom videos; and a proficiency assessment. The course requires approximately 20-25 hours to complete.

As a part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) commitment to providing support to evaluators, this course will provide additional training in the best practices for the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system which will be implemented as of July 1, 2013. This one-time opportunity, at no cost, focuses on increasing inter-rater reliability to promote consistency and fairness for the evaluation process. Finally, upon successful completion of the course, 30 Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership Program (PIL) hours will be earned and recorded in PDE's PERMS system.

If you are an administrator who is required to evaluate professional staff in the Teacher Observation and Practice component of the new teacher evaluation system, and have not previously received a license, then you are encouraged to request a license.

To request a license, you must complete the Teachscape License Request for 2013-14, Round 4 survey using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachscapeRound4> . The Teachscape License Request for 2013-14, Round 4 survey is now open and will close on July 9, 2013. We are asking each applicant to personally complete the survey.

PDE expects the Teachscape License recipient to activate the license within 30 days of notification and to complete the entire program during the life of the license, which expires one year from date of notification.