

Evaluations will give vital feedback

I am responding to two recently published editorials — “Value-added model rating unfair to teachers” and “More frank, open discussions on education needed in the state.” As a long-time educator and parent, I completely agree with the American Press that parents and community members must participate with the changes that are happening in our state. I would also venture to say that another key group is an integral component in that conversation — that of moderate educators.

I believe that the teacher evaluation system is a step in the right direction. While this evaluation system is far from perfect, it creates opportunities for educators to receive valuable feedback on their performance and abilities with the best interest

of the students in mind. Laws are in place, guidelines have been set and we can't push the pause button on the students in our classrooms. Most of us have rolled up our sleeves and have passionately continued to provide meaningful learning experiences for our students.

As a school administrator, I have taken every possible chance to learn about the evaluation system and to support my teachers' knowledge about the system. It is my opinion that by the end of the school year, most teachers will be pleased with the positive feedback and the affirmation they'll receive of the exceptional job they're doing.

I sincerely believe that everyone involved, including Gov. Jindal, State Supt. White, the Legislature, BESE,

LDOE, educators and union officials, has a genuine interest in what's best for the children; therefore, we need to push aside our personal political and adult agendas and keep the best interest of the students at the forefront of a civil discourse. When faced with making tough decisions in education, the right choice will always come from asking this one question, “What is in the best interest of our students?”

The *American Press* rightly pointed out that oftentimes our students get lost in these discussions. Let's work together to make sure that this system has positive results for those who matter most — our children.

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