

3/31/09
Karma Testimony
Teacher Quality

Hello my name is Karma Watson, I am an ACORN member and mother of three children who are all currently in the Philadelphia School District. I am excited to be here today because it is long overdue that every class have a great teacher who believes in our kids

The need for the district to get serious about the quality of teaching in the classroom has never seemed more urgent to me after this current school year. My two youngest children attend Wister Elementary School. My daughter who is in 4th Grade has yet to have a science teacher, and the school year is almost over! Her science teacher left at the beginning of the school year for maternity leave, since then the class has been filled with three different substitute teachers none of whom are science teachers. Despite my constant calls I could never get a straight answer about what was going on in the class. I don't think it is any coincidence that my daughter did the worst on her pssa's in Science compared to all other subjects. It is completely unacceptable for my daughter to miss an entire year of science class. Would this happen at a school in the Northeast? I doubt it!

On top of that neither of my Children at Wister have had gym class all year! I know gym is not the most important class, but it one of the reasons both of my children looked forward to going to school every day. Instead of gym they've sat in a class room learning life lessons. This is simply not acceptable. Again I wonder if this would happen at schools in the Northeast or in the Suburbs?

The school district needs to get serious about filling vacancies at our schools! The school district needs to get serious about actually providing **all** of our kids with quality teachers! We need teachers who believe in our kids, who believe they can learn, and who can inspire and motivate all of our children!