



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Souderton Charter School Collaborative  
Souderton, Pennsylvania**

**February 2018**

### **Souderton Charter School Collaborative Recognized for Excellence**

Souderton Charter School Collaborative (SCSC) was again identified as an exemplary middle school in Pennsylvania. Initially recognized six years ago and re-designated three years ago, SCSC was re-designated again as a PA Don Eichhorn Schools: “Schools to Watch” (STW) as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education, Duquesne University, Edinboro University, Shippensburg University and Horace Mann Service Corporation, the Pennsylvania “Schools to Watch” team has announced that SCSC once again met the strict STW criteria:

State leaders selected SCSC for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and its commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition SCSC has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement. Bruce Vosburgh, President of the National Forum and PA State STW Director stated, “We congratulate these schools for being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that high-

performing middle grades schools are places that focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensure that every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education.”

The Schools to Watch selection process is based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the National Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams, which observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years, they must demonstrate progress on specific goals in order to be re-designated. Unlike the Blue Ribbon recognition program, “Schools to Watch” requires schools not to only identify strengths, but to also focus on areas for continuous improvement; thus the three year re-designation.

Launched in 1999, Schools to Watch began as a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding 37 criteria developed by the National Forum. The Forum developed a web site (<http://middlegradesforum.org>) that features online tours of schools, as well as detailed information about the selection criteria used in the recognition program. There are now 18 states across the country, which have trained Schools to Watch State Teams, with more than 450 schools recognized.

“We are pleased that our Schools to Watch program has shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment of healthy development and equity for all students,” said Ericka Uskali, National Forum Executive Director. “These Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don’t want to miss a day. These schools have proven that it is possible to overcome barriers to achieving excellence, and any middle-level school in any state can truly learn from their examples,” Kasak said.

*The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform is an alliance of 65 educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations dedicated to improving education in the middle grades.*

Contact person:

Bruce Vosburgh, Director, PA STW, [bvosbur@comcast.net](mailto:bvosbur@comcast.net)

Wendy Ormsby, Director, SCSC, [wendyo@scsc4kids.org](mailto:wendyo@scsc4kids.org)