

## **THE OBSERVER FORUM**

Charlotte Observer - Saturday, February 16, 2008

Veteran teachers key to Pinewood's success

The writer is on the steering committee of **Mecklenburg ACTS**.

In response to "High poverty - AND high-achieving" (Feb. 9):

It's important to note that last year, when its students made high growth, Pinewood Elementary met a key CMS standard: 75 percent of its teachers had four or more years of experience.

Innovative programming alone won't produce lasting success at majority-poverty schools. They need leadership, small classes, flexibility and a stable core of strong, experienced teachers. Until CMS finds a way to bring more top teachers to all such schools, successes such as Pinewood's will remain the exception.

Pamela Grundy

Charlotte