



State of Texas Education

Educators' Thoughts on the 88th Legislature

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About the Survey

- 3,452 responses from Texas K-12 and higher education employees.
- Distributed by email and text statewide between July 26 and Aug. 9.
- Unless specifically specified as "teachers," we use the term "educators" to encompass all non-administrative employees who work in our schools.
 - Respondents included nurses, librarians, bus drivers, and others working in independent school districts and higher education institutions.



Key Demographic Information

I am a...		Job classification (K-12)		Job classification (Higher ed.)	
K-12 Certified/Pro Employee	83.3%	Full-time teacher	70.6%	Other/Not listed	34.8%
K-12 Classified/Support Employee	11.2%	Educational aide/Para	6.1%	Tenured professor	27.7%
Higher Ed Employee	5.5%	Counselor	3.1%	Support staff	18.7%
		Librarian	2%	Adjunct professor	13.6%
		Substitute teacher	1.5%	T.A.	3.9%
		All other (Clerical, Nurse, etc.)	5.2%	Clerical employee	1.3%
		Other/Not listed	11.5%		



Gauging Engagement

62%

K-12 and higher education employees who **"followed updates all session long on things that mattered to me."**

96%

K-12 employees who **plan to vote in the November elections**
(**97%** for higher education)

Grading the Legislature

How would you grade the Legislature's actions on retaining qualified ...

... K-12 teachers and staff?

... higher education employees?

79%

78%

Responded "Not Good" or "Terrible"

On The Issues, K-12

The Legislature did not pass an increase to base funding of public schools. **Given that, how would you grade the Texas Legislature on public school funding?**

Are you concerned that expanding public funding of charter schools or instituting private school vouchers with taxpayer dollars would have a negative effect on your public school?

Terrible, lack of new funding will have a detrimental...	81.1%	Yes	89.2%
Not good	13.3%	No	5.8%
Neutral	2.8%	Unsure	5%
Unsure	1.6%		
Good	1%		
Great	0.2%		



On The Issues, K-12

Yes, I am concerned that expanding public funding of charter schools or instituting private school vouchers with taxpayer dollars will have a negative effect on my public school.

84%

Self-identified Republicans

93%

Self-identified Democrats

89%

Self-identified Independents

On The Issues, K-12

Which of these bills that did not get a hearing would you most want to be introduced in a special session?

42%

Reduce required state standardized testing.

23%

Close loopholes that allow class sizes above legal limits.

21%

Reduce your paperwork and workload requirements.

On The Issues, Higher Ed.

Are you concerned that the passage of SB 17, which bans DEI programs at Texas higher education institutions, will have a negative impact on your campus?

Are you concerned that the passage of SB 18, which limits the employment protections of academic tenure at Texas higher education institutions, will have a negative impact on your school?

Yes	75.6%	Yes	76.9%
No	14.8%	No	12.8%
Unsure	9.6%	Unsure	10.3%



Leaving The Profession

Based on what you've seen from this legislative session and state leadership, have you considered leaving your job in education?

K-12, yes

64%

Higher ed., yes

51%

Educators Speak with a United Voice

Key takeaways

1. **When asked about the Legislature's performance on school funding, Texas public school employees nearly unanimously said "not good" or "terrible" (94.4%).** As with teacher retention efforts, Republican teachers agree (92.51%) with their Democratic (95%) and Independent (95%) counterparts on public school funding in Texas.
2. **The Legislature had a chance to increase educator pay during the regular session. Instead, they again kicked the can down the road for another school year.** Of those educators surveyed, an overwhelming 79% would give lawmakers "not good" or "terrible" grades on their work toward teacher retention. 74% of Republican teachers (self-described) agree.
3. **Year after year, surveys show alarming rates of educators considering leaving the profession for good.** 64% of those surveyed said this legislative session has made them consider leaving their teaching jobs in Texas, including 64% of Republicans, 64% of Democrats, and 69% of Independents.
4. **Regardless of political party, Texas teachers agree: vouchers pose an existential threat to their schools and to their students.** Nearly 84% of Republican teachers surveyed voiced concerns about vouchers, compared to 93% of Democratic teachers and 89% of Independents.

