

DATA POINTS



40 YEARS AFTER A NATION AT RISK

The U.S. K-12 public education system continues to underserve students, particularly those historically marginalized, reports *Voices From the Classroom 2023*, a survey exploring teachers' perceptions of K-12 education's goals and measurement of success. The survey comes 40 years after the National Commission on Excellence in Education released *A Nation at Risk*, which initiated the U.S. standards-based reform and accountability movement. According to the 2023 survey, teachers lack effective curricular materials and "need more support in effectively collaborating with other members of school staff in order to allow them to focus on their own core instructional work." School districts must "prioritize retaining high-quality, diverse teachers who are most deeply impacting students in moving toward the system's goals."

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96% FAVOR RELEVANT MATH EDUCATION

96% of American survey respondents agreed that making math education more relevant would support students' engagement and lead to math success. Both math teachers and parents agree on this point in recent poll data released by Global Strategy Group. The poll revealed that math education is perceived as outdated and disconnected from the real world. In addition, 76% of teachers and 71% of adults believe that if students see themselves in the content, math will have more personal applications and create the likelihood for greater success. Nationwide, 805 parents and 732 teachers took the survey, which was commissioned by the Bill

& Melinda Gates Foundation.
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20% STUDENT RECOVERY RATE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

20% of students' test score losses were recovered in English language arts by 2022, compared to 37% in math, according to a working paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research. "These recovery rates do not significantly vary across demographic characteristics, baseline achievement rates, in-person schooling rates in the pandemic school year, or category-based measures of recovery funding allocations," the authors write. However, there is wide-ranging state-level variation in English language arts recovery rates. Initial data indicates that reading legislation may be linked to English language arts outcomes, suggesting that there are better and worse policies for recovery.

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40% OF U.S. SCHOOLS HAVE NO TEACHERS OF COLOR

As many as 40% of U.S. public schools do not staff any teachers of color, while more than half of all public school students identify as people of color, according to a report from So All Students Thrive, in collaboration with The New Teacher

Project and Educators for Excellence. In fact, only 20% of public school teachers identify as a person of color. "The research is clear — teachers of color benefit all students, in the form of greater classroom engagement, higher academic achievement, and increased cross-cultural interactions," the report states. Black students who have one Black teacher before 3rd grade are 13% more likely to graduate from high school and 19% more likely to enroll in college than same-race peers.

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73% OF TEACHERS SAY PUBLIC PERCEPTION HAS WORSENERD

In an NPR and Ipsos poll of K-12 teachers and the general public, 73% of teachers believe the public's perceptions of them have worsened in the past decade. According to Ipsos, "About seven in 10 Americans (69%) and four in five K-12 teachers (79%) disagree that public school teachers are paid fairly. Further, three-quarters of Americans (75%) and nine-tenths of K-12 teachers (93%) say that teachers are asked to do too much work for the pay they receive." Add to that 86% of teachers reported purchasing school supplies with their own money, and 77% had assisted students on their own time. Even so, 80% of surveyed teachers reported they are happy they became teachers, despite pay and perception.

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