

Badger Institute Teachers Survey on Federal School Funding
Conducted November-December 2017

The Badger Institute survey was conducted from Nov. 7 through Dec. 8, 2017. Surveys were sent to 4,318 teachers and other school staff who were reported by the state Department of Public Instruction to work under federally funded programs in public school districts throughout Wisconsin. Only completed surveys from 347 teachers and teaching aides working directly with students and confirmed to be paid at least partially with federal funds were counted in the results. Teachers in Milwaukee Public Schools were not surveyed because the Badger Institute was not granted access.

The survey was conducted through Survey Monkey and sent via email. The questions were multiple choice, but respondents were given the opportunity to comment. Their answers and comments were anonymous unless the respondents gave permission for their names and titles to be published. Some were contacted by phone or email for follow-up questions. To access the survey, teachers had to answer the first question. Not all who did so completed the survey.

1. To begin, we'd like to know a little about the job you do. Are you full time or part time?

Answer choices	Responses	
Full time	92.22%	320
Part time	7.78%	27
Total		347

2. Are you a teacher, counselor/social worker, aide, administrator or something else?

Answer choices	Responses	
Teacher	72.05%	250
Aide	19.88%	69
Other (please specify)	8.07%	28
Total		347

3. We're also wondering about your general job satisfaction. How satisfied are you with your current job?

Answer choices	Responses	
Extremely satisfied	32.85%	114
Somewhat satisfied	50.72%	176
Somewhat dissatisfied	12.10%	42
Extremely dissatisfied	4.32%	15
Total		347

4. What would make your job more satisfying? (Check all that apply.)

Answer choices	Responses	
More money	65.24%	214
Fewer work hours	11.89%	39
Less paperwork and regulations to follow	50.61%	166
More productive and collaborative meetings	33.54%	110
Fewer meetings	20.43%	67
Stronger community/parent support	28.35%	93
Increased student engagement	22.56%	74
Smaller class sizes	22.26%	73
Other (please specify)	24.70%	81
Total respondents		328

5. And what about the job satisfaction of your colleagues? How satisfied would you say your colleagues are in their current jobs?

Answer choices	Responses	
Extremely satisfied	9.83%	34
Somewhat satisfied	63.58%	220
Somewhat dissatisfied	21.68%	75
Extremely dissatisfied	4.91%	17
Total		346

6. What, in your view, would make their jobs more satisfying? (Check all that apply.)

Answer choices	Responses	
More money	63.72%	209
Fewer work hours	19.51%	64
Less paperwork and regulations to follow	60.37%	198
More productive and collaborative meetings	33.54%	110
Fewer meetings	36.89%	121
Stronger community/parent support	35.37%	116
Increased student engagement	29.88%	98
Smaller class sizes	37.80%	124
Other (please specify)	17.07%	56
Total respondents		328

7. You are asked to do many things. We're interested in how much time you spend on them. In a typical week, how many hours, on average, do you spend on the following tasks (include a number from 0 to 40, or more, for each category)? Only those respondents who identified as a "full-time teacher" are included in this answer.

Answer choices	Average hours/week	Responses
In-class teaching	27.80	330
Grading	3.20	285
Meeting with fellow teachers and administrators	4.06	324
Meeting with parents	1.80	296
Paperwork, training and other tasks associated with government grant programs	7.06	314
Other	8.07	188
Total	51.99	240

8. We often hear that there is a lot of paperwork and other duties associated with federal funding of schools. If you no longer had to complete the paperwork, training and other administrative tasks associated with federal government grants, what would you do with the time that became available to you? (Check all that apply.)

Answer choices	Responses	
Work in the classroom and tutor students	56.20%	195
Prepare lesson plans	52.16%	181
Acquire additional training, education or otherwise better myself as a teacher/staff person	45.24%	157
Spend more time outside the school with family and friends	44.38%	154
Nothing would change	2.59%	9
I have no paperwork requirements or non-classroom duties related to government grants	13.54%	47
Don't know	7.20%	25
Other (please specify)	6.34%	22
Total		347

9. Now we're interested in how you think funds from the federal government are utilized. If local school officials had more discretion over how these federal funds were spent, do you think there would much more, somewhat more, about the same, somewhat less or much less accountability to parents and taxpayers than there is now?

Answer choices	Responses	
There would be much more accountability	9.51%	33
Somewhat more	18.16%	63
About the same	31.70%	110
Somewhat less	5.19%	18
Much less accountability	5.76%	20
Don't know	29.68%	103
Total		347

10. If local school officials had more discretion over how federal funds were spent, do you think there would be much more, somewhat more, about the same, somewhat less or much less innovation in meeting the needs of students than there is now?

Answer choices	Responses	
There would be much more innovation	21.90%	76
Somewhat more	30.55%	106
About the same	20.75%	72
Somewhat less	4.32%	15
Much less innovation	2.02%	7
Don't know	20.46%	71
Total		347

11. Speaking of innovation, have you ever wanted to try an innovative approach to your job but were prevented from doing so by federal rules and regulations?

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	35.45%	123
No	39.48%	137
Don't know	25.07%	87
Total		347

12. Have new, innovative ideas about how to approach your job or meet the needs of children ever been directed to the local level from the federal government?

Answer choices	Responses	
Yes	21.04%	73
No	22.19%	77
Don't know	56.77%	197
Total		347

13. Which of the following statements comes closer to what you think about federal paperwork and training requirements?

Answer choices	Responses	
Federal paperwork and training requirements hinder me from meeting the educational needs of students.	42.07%	146
Federal paperwork and training requirements help me stay focused on the educational needs of students.	20.17%	70
I don't deal with federal paperwork.	37.75%	131
Total		347

14. And how about these two statements regarding the effect of federal regulations? Which comes closer to your view?

Answer choices	Responses	
Federal regulations over school funding harmfully distort decisions teachers and local school officials make on behalf of their students.	56.07%	194
Federal regulations over school funding help ensure teachers and local school officials attend to the best interests of their students.	43.93%	152
Total		346

15. In your view, the federal government's role in local education should be:

Answer choices	Responses	
Substantially increased	2.02%	7
Increased	5.19%	18
Remain the same	24.21%	84
Reduced	34.29%	119
Substantially reduced	14.70%	51
Eliminated	2.88%	10
Don't know	16.71%	58
Total		347

16. Now we'd like to know a little about yourself and the school district where you work. How many years have you been a teacher/school staff member?

Answer choices	Responses	
1-4 years	10.95%	38
5-9 years	17.58%	61
10-19 years	34.01%	118
20+ years	37.46%	130
Total		347

17. How many years have you worked in your current school district?

Answer choices	Responses	
1-4 years	19.36%	67
5-9 years	26.88%	93
10-19 years	35.55%	123
20+ years	18.21%	63
Total		346

18. What grade levels do you teach/counsel?

Answer choices	Responses	
Pre-K/Kindergarten	15.90%	55
Elementary	45.38%	157
Middle school	14.74%	51
High school	19.65%	68
I don't teach/counsel	4.34%	15
Total		346

19. Would you describe your district as urban, suburban or rural?

Answer choices	Responses	
Urban	17.29%	60
Suburban	23.05%	80
Rural	59.65%	207
Total		347

20. How many students attend school in your district?

Answer choices	Responses	
Less than 1,000	38.33%	133
1,000-2,500	24.78%	86
2,501-5,000	9.22%	32
5,001-10,000	10.66%	37
More than 10,000	10.37%	36
Don't know	6.63%	23
Total		347