

IWERC UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2022

<https://dpi.uillinois.edu/iwerc>



Upcoming Webinar!

Learning from learning loss in Illinois: What we know and where we go from here

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022
3 P.M. - 4 P.M. CT

Register for the webinar at:

<https://go.uillinois.edu/LearningLoss>

What does research tell us about learning during the pandemic in Illinois and Chicago? What are schools and policymakers doing with this information to support students?

Join the discussion with speakers from

- **Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative** (IWERC) at University of Illinois
- **Illinois State Board of Education** (ISBE)
- **UChicago Consortium on School Research**

Why Illinois Educators Leave the Profession

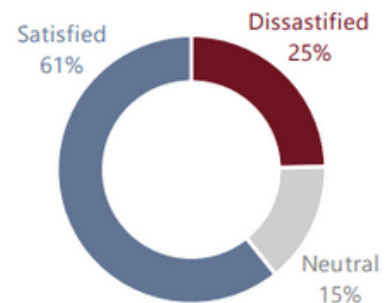
IWERC, in partnership with IARSS, the LEAD Hubs, and Goshen Education Consulting, surveyed over 3,000 current and former educators across Illinois about their working conditions, to find out why some teachers leave and some stay.

Key Takeaways:

1. Both current and former educators (85%) believed their work had a **positive impact** on the world, but less than half (40%) were satisfied with their **compensation**.
2. Leavers were motivated by concerns with **school leadership**—47% of former educators had positive relationships with leadership, compared to 77% of current educators.
3. **Teachers of color** who would not return to their positions reported greater concerns that school policies did not align with their personal beliefs.
4. **Early career educators** who would not return to their positions reported less of a feeling of acceptance in their schools/districts.

Read the full report [here](#).

Figure 6: Percent of Educators Who Were Satisfied or Dissatisfied in Their Most Recent Position as an Educator.



85%

of surveyed educators agreed that their work as an educator had a positive impact on the world.

52%

of surveyed educators agreed that the workload as an educator was reasonable.

47%

of surveyed educators who left the profession agreed they had a positive relationship with leadership.

40%

of surveyed educators agreed their salary was appropriate.

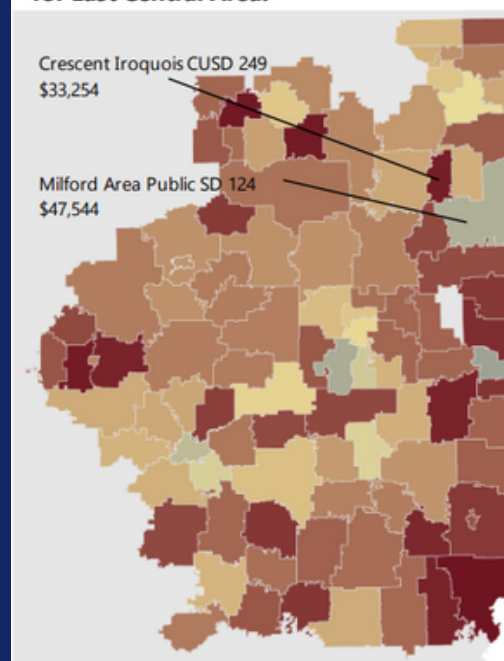
Exploring Teacher Salaries and Teacher Shortages

IWERC, along with Goshen, IARSS, and the LEAD Hubs, examined the relationship between teacher starting salary and teacher shortages. The full white paper can be found [here](#).

Select Takeaways:

1. Districts with **higher salaries had higher retention rates**, while superintendents in districts with lower starting salaries rated teacher shortages as more severe. However, these associations were weak and varied by district characteristics and geography.
2. Districts with higher funding via property taxes had higher retention rates and lower perception of teacher shortage severity, but **districts across funding levels faced shortages**.
3. Districts with lower percentages of students from low-income households had higher teacher retention rates and lower unfilled position rates.
4. Starting salaries vary greatly across the state. Even within similar geographic areas, there are **"islands of higher pay"** where specific districts pay much higher than neighboring districts. This is a cause of concern for superintendents.

Bachelor's Beginning Salary by District for East Central Area.



IWERC is Hiring!

Assistant Director for Outreach

- IWERC seeks a creative, impact-focused person to help share our work with our partners, collaborators, and the public. **Apply [here!](#)**

Visiting Research Specialist (Creative Workforce)

- IWERC seeks a researcher who will focus on understanding the creative workforce in Illinois. This position is part of a partnership between Discovery Partners Institute, Arts Alliance Illinois, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's College of Fine and Applied Arts, and University of Illinois Chicago's College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts. Read more about this exciting partnership [here](#). **Apply [here!](#)**

Coming Soon!

IWERC will release reports on several additional topics soon, including:

- Survey of Illinois high school seniors (2020-21) on their **college decision-making**
- Analysis of the **Illinois Educator Preparation Profiles** system
- Educational **access mapping** of the state of Illinois
- Analysis of Illinois postsecondary programs producing a **diverse computer science workforce**

Many Thanks

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