

Survey: Stress of pandemic education is pushing many educators toward the door

A new survey of more than 9,700 members of Education Minnesota shows they're feeling stressed, overwhelmed and worried about their physical and mental health. Alarming, 29 percent of those surveyed said they were actively considering leaving the profession.

Of the union members who responded to the survey, the educators providing hybrid or multimodal education reported the highest levels of negative feelings about their jobs. Multimodal educators are simultaneously providing lessons to students online while teaching in-person to students in their classrooms. Educators providing hybrid education typically do both modes, but not at the same time.

How are you currently feeling about your work as an educator?

Response	Distance learning	Hybrid	Multimodal	In-person	Overall
Stressed	77	81	86	74	79
Overwhelmed	71	75	80	67	73
Frustrated	61	60	65	52	59
Worried about my own mental health	48	53	55	48	51
Worried	46	49	51	48	48
Thinking about quitting or retiring	29	28	32	27	29
Focused	14	13	14	13	13
Angry	12	14	15	11	13
Happy	10	11	11	19	12
Inspired	10	7	9	7	8
Other	17	14	14	13	15

Figures are percentages. Respondents could pick more than one option. 9,723 members of Education Minnesota responded to the poll.

While many factors influence job satisfaction, the survey strongly suggests the new, heavy demands of educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic is the driving force behind the educators' anxiety. For example, many teachers are writing lessons for subjects and grades they haven't taught before.



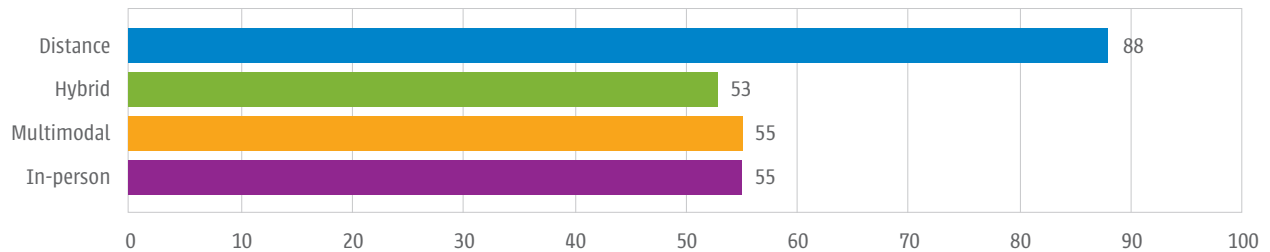
To what extent is your current workload a source of concern for you?

Learning mode	Not a concern at all	Somewhat a concern	A growing concern	Very much a concern	Total members surveyed
Distance	8	20	31	41	1,810
Hybrid	5	14	29	52	5,564
Multimodal	3	10	27	59	402
In-person	12	19	33	37	1,911

Numbers are percentages unless specified.

The survey found educators delivering lessons in-person were feeling stressed and frustrated, but less so than educators working in other learning modes. However, when asked to rate how safe they feel on a scale of 1-100, educators working face-to-face with students reported scores between 53 and 55. Educators providing distance education felt much safer.

How physically safe to do you feel in the current learning mode that you're using?



Educators were asked to rate their feeling on a scale of 1 - 100, with 1 completely unsafe and 100 completely safe.

Other data points

- A link to the online survey was transmitted to more than 60,000 members of Education Minnesota on Sep. 23. The data in this memo was current as of Oct. 5, when 9,723 educators had responded.
- The majority of respondents provided hybrid learning (57 percent); followed by in-person (20 percent); distance (19 percent); and multimodal (4 percent).
- The most common job classification among respondents was teacher at 83 percent followed by student support professionals, such as nurses and counselors, at 7 percent, then paraprofessionals at 4 percent. Smaller percentages were spread over seven other job categories.
- Full survey results will be posted on the Education Minnesota website: www.educationminnesota.org.