

# South Carolina Teacher Retention Rates for the 2020-2021 Academic Year: One-Year and Three-Year Averages



To better understand the state of teacher retention in South Carolina, the research team investigated school-level factors associated with the one-year and three-year average teacher retention rates at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. Results are based on analysis of data collected from 1,178 public schools in 88 school districts across South Carolina.

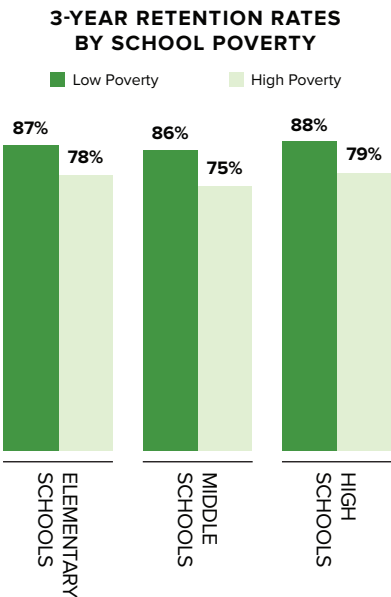
It was discovered that teacher retention rates were significantly related to teacher salary, school climate (satisfaction with school safety, student behavior, and home-school relationships), the level of poverty in the student population, and the number of years the principal had served at the school. High schools exhibited the highest teacher retention rates, and middle schools possessed the lowest teacher retention rates. However, the organizational level was not a primary factor for teacher retention.

For the full report, visit [sc-teacher.org/teacher\\_retention](https://sc-teacher.org/teacher_retention).

## KEY FINDINGS

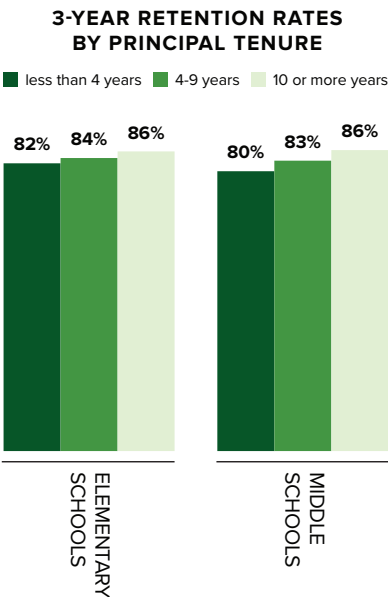
### #1 SCHOOL POVERTY

Of the school-level factors, the level of school poverty demonstrated the highest relationship with teacher retention. High-poverty schools had significantly lower teacher retention rates compared to schools with a less disadvantaged student population.



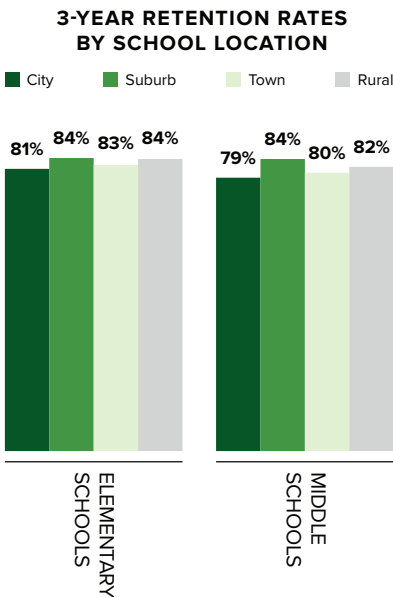
### #2 PRINCIPAL TENURE

Overall, principal tenure was positively related to teacher retention, but the relationship was not consistent across school organizational levels. In elementary and middle schools, the number of years a principal served at the school had a positive relationship with teacher retention.



### #3 SCHOOL LOCATION

Teacher retention rates were lowest among elementary and middle schools located in cities compared to other locations (rural, town, and suburban).



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