

OVERVIEW

South Carolina Teacher Exit Survey for 2022-23

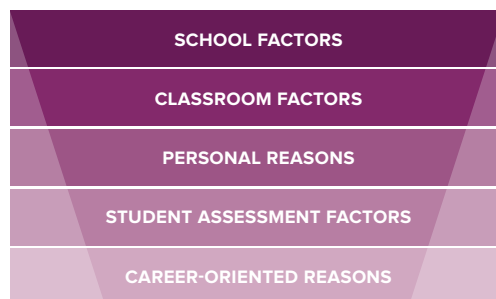
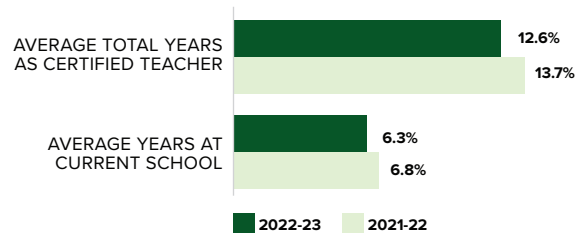
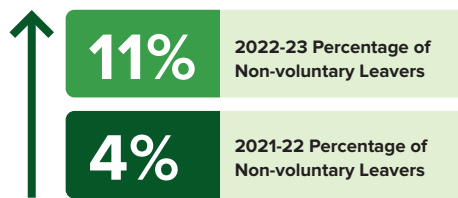
OCTOBER 2023



The SC Teacher Exit Survey is designed to provide valuable insights into the relationship between working conditions and teachers' decisions to exit the teaching profession or to continue teaching but in a different school district. This report presents the findings of the SC Teacher Exit Survey for the academic year 2022-23 and offers a longitudinal comparison with the 2021-22 exit survey results. The analysis is based on responses from 1,192 teachers representing 18 school districts who departed from their teaching roles at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.

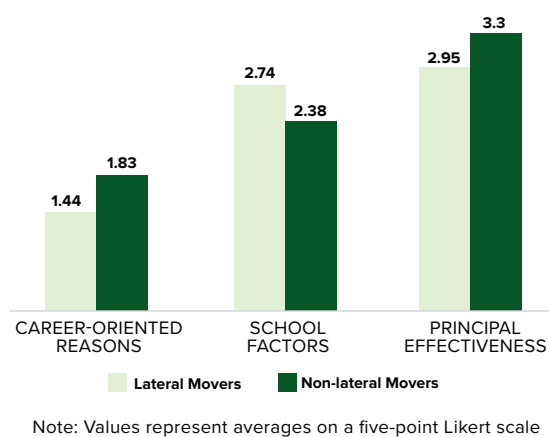
To learn more, access the full report at sc-teacher.org/documents/exit-survey-summary-22-23/

Nearly 3 in 4 teachers leaving their positions had been certified teachers for more than five years, but 2 out of 3 teachers leaving had been at their current school for no more than five years. Since last year, there was a 7% uptick in the proportion of teachers who departed involuntarily, while there was a 3% decline in the percentage of educators who opted to take teaching roles in different districts.



School-wide factors (such as issues related to school discipline and discontentment with administration) along with factors within the classroom (such as dissatisfaction with class size and restricted classroom autonomy) emerged as the primary drivers for SC teachers leaving their teaching roles. These two categories of factors also had the strongest associations with teachers' emotional exhaustion.

Teachers who made lateral moves (i.e., left their position to teach elsewhere) and those who did not (teachers leaving the profession) had different motivations for leaving their teaching positions. Lateral movers attributed greater significance to school-based factors as their reasons for departure, whereas non-lateral movers gave higher ratings to career-oriented reasons (e.g., dissatisfaction with their teaching career and desire for a career outside of education).



+ KEY FINDINGS

#1 NON-LATERAL MOVERS

For non-lateral movers, 3 out of 4 reported they would either consider returning to teaching or were unsure about the possibility. The top two reasons for considering a return include...

- ↑ HIGHER SALARY
- ↓ SMALLER CLASS SIZES

#2 LATERAL MOVERS

For exiting teachers, 2 out of 5 stated they were leaving their current teaching position but had accepted a teaching position in another district. The top two reasons for this lateral move include...

- #1 ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP OR VISION
- #2 REPUTATION OF THE NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

#3 PRIMARY REASON FOR LEAVING

For the last two years, half of teachers leaving their current position have cited a personal factor (e.g., more convenient location, moved, health reasons, retirement) as the single most important reason.

CITING PERSONAL FACTORS

48% 2021-22 EXIT SURVEY

50% 2022-23 EXIT SURVEY

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