

Teacher & Administrator Perceptions about K-12 Education Finance

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE FIRST ANNUAL EDUCATION FINANCE SURVEY

Commissioned by Allovue
Conducted by the EdWeek Research Center



WHAT WE LEARNED

WHO

1,303 U.S.-based educators including 337 school district leaders, 340 principals/vice principals, and 626 teachers

WHAT

A nationally representative, 36-question survey

WHEN

Nov. 17, 2022–Dec. 16, 2022

WHY

To gain insights into educators' views, knowledge, and projections of K-12 finance

Pandemic relief funds were not seen as “transformational.”

Only 21% of respondents said their district's ESSER dollars were sufficient to make a transformational or very important difference.

Many do not know the cost of teachers' total compensation.

86% of teachers, 73% of school leaders, and 66% of district leaders incorrectly estimated how much districts pay for teacher benefits, such as pensions, healthcare, and paid leave.

Over half of respondents (53%) said higher levels of need among today's students have a major impact on rising per-pupil costs.

36% and 31% of respondents named declining enrollment and special education as other top factors, respectively.

School-based administrators want more budget autonomy.

School leaders control only 7-8% of their schools' total spending, and most said they need more decision-making authority.



← Scan the code to download the full whitepaper, or visit [ALLOVUE.COM/STUDY](https://allovue.com/study)

Introducing the Allovue Education Spending Confidence Index

The Allovue Education Spending Confidence Index was designed to provide a high-level overview of teacher and administrator perceptions of their school systems' current and expected financial status, with the goal of tracking this new metric over time.

The Confidence Index's inaugural score is -38 on a scale ranging from -100 to +100. This score suggests that educators are more likely to view their districts' financial status and future with pessimism than with optimism.

Taken together, our findings suggest that K-12 teachers and administrators would benefit from expanded access to information, more opportunities for knowledge sharing, and improved collaboration around public school resources, budget processes, and spending practices. Allovue's Education Finance Survey is an attempt to highlight this need and encourage action.



A common theme was the idea that administrative salaries are constraining teacher wages. However...

Public schools spend approximately **\$261 billion annually on teacher salaries**—roughly **46x more than they spend on district leader salaries** (\$5.6 billion per year).

Even if school boards laid off every single district leader in the country and spent 100% of the savings on teacher pay, the average teacher would earn **just 2% more.**

ABOUT US

Founded in 2013 by a former middle school teacher, **Allovue** builds innovative tech solutions to empower education finance administrators and make spending more equitable and effective.

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