

# TEACHERS AT WORK

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

## A DAY IN A TEACHER'S LIFE

### A Teacher's Workday

Based on a national survey of 10,000 teachers, the 2012 report, *Primary Sources: 2012 America's Teachers on the Teaching Profession*, from Scholastic and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation reported that teachers work an average of 10 hours and 40 minutes a day—a 53-hour work week.

*The 7.5 hours in the classroom are just the starting point. On average, teachers are at school an additional 90 minutes beyond the school day for mentoring, providing after-school help for students, attending staff meetings and collaborating with peers. Teachers then spend another 95 minutes at home grading, preparing classroom activities, and doing other job-related tasks. The workday is even longer for teachers who advise extracurricular clubs and coach sports –11 hours and 20 minutes, on average.*

### Challenges Facing Teachers

An important finding from a follow-up 2013 national survey of 20,000 teachers as reported in the third edition of "Primary Sources" is teacher views on the most significant challenges they face. "Constantly changing demands on both teachers

and students' is far and away the challenge most cited by teachers. Eighty-two percent (82%) identify this challenge as significant." The second-most important challenge was "not enough time to collaborate with colleagues" as identified by 51% of teachers surveyed.

Of teachers surveyed in South Carolina, "constantly changing demands on both teachers and students" was cited by 75% of teachers followed by 42% reporting "not enough time to collaborate with colleagues."

### Specific Classroom Challenges

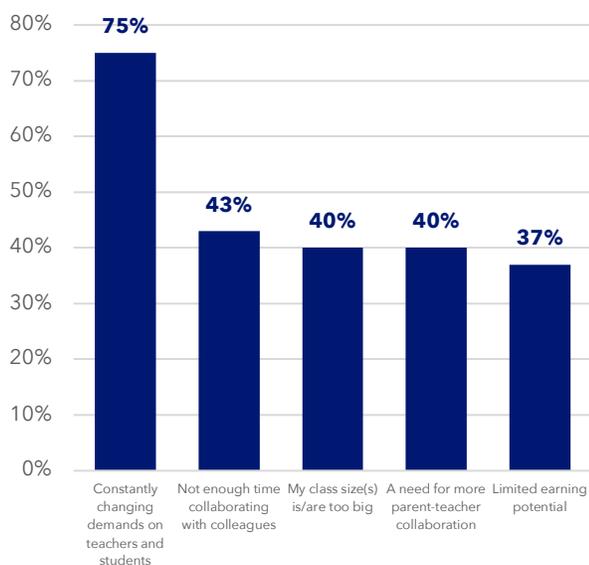
As outlined in the third edition of "Primary Sources," South Carolina teachers work with students of "varied learning levels and characteristics" in their classrooms.

- **99%** have at least one student who needs assistance or intervention for social, emotional or behavioral challenges.
- **76%** have student reading levels that span four or more grades.

- **66%** have students who are working two or more grades below grade level.
- **61%** have special education students in their classroom.
- **55%** have students who are gifted or who are working significantly above grade level.
- **44%** have English Language Learners in their classroom.

## Teachers' Views on the Most Significant Challenges They Face

Teachers in South Carolina



Source: "Primary Sources: America's Teachers on Teaching in an Era of Change," Third Edition, Scholastic Inc. and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2013. (online: <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources>)

## Reasons to Teach

Ninety percent (90%) of the teachers surveyed in South Carolina agreed that the rewards of teaching outweigh the challenges with 98% agreeing that teaching is more than a profession. The reasons most cited for becoming a teacher are "to make a difference in children's lives (86%), to share their love of learning and teaching with others (75%), to help students reach their full potential (69%) and to be a part of those 'aha' moments when things 'click' for a student (65%)." (*"Primary Sources: America's*

*Teachers on Teaching in an Era of Change," Third Edition, Scholastic Inc. and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2013.)*

## Probationary Period

First-time teachers are formally evaluated over a three-year period based on in-class observation, a portfolio, student achievement and written tests. Those that meet the standards are upgraded from an initial certificate to a professional certificate.

## Teacher Re-certification

Teachers must be re-certified every five years. This requires completing some combination of college classes, State Dept. of Education or local school district certificate renewal classes or other training. A total of 120 renewal credits are required during each five-year period.

## Teacher Unions

There are no teacher unions in South Carolina. Teachers receive one-year contracts. No one is guaranteed a teaching position for the next year. Teachers can be dismissed with cause at any time.

## Greenville as a Good Place to Work for Teachers

A 2017 analysis from GoodCall ranked Greenville as the 40<sup>th</sup> best city for K-12 Teachers out of 689 cities analyzed. Ratings were based on seven measures: teacher salaries, cost of living, availability of jobs, unemployment rate, violent crime rate, prevalence of amenities, and the educational level of the population. (*"2017 Best Cities for K-12 Teachers," GoodCall, May 23, 2017.*)

A 2017 analysis by Trulia ranked Greenville as the 40<sup>th</sup> most affordable housing markets for teachers among the 93 largest metropolitan areas. In the Greenville metro area, 55% of for-sale homes are affordable for teachers according to the study. (*"Teacher, Teacher Can You Live Here? Trulia's Blog, 2017.*)