

Act 466 of the 2008 Legislative Session requires the Department of Education to collect information on why teachers have left the classroom and report the findings to the Senate and House Education Committees in January of each year.

Over the past several years, the Department’s process for collecting teacher exit data has improved, thus creating a more complete picture of teacher exit trends. In the past, some districts did not submit this data because they did not consistently interview staff to determine the reason for departure. In 2013-2014, the Department improved the data collection portal, as well as instructions for reporting, resulting in data collected from 6,485 teachers in 69 districts.

Of 6,485 teachers included in districts’ reports, the majority reported that they were retiring, transferring to another Louisiana district, or leaving because of personal reasons.

Year	# of Reporting Districts	# of Teachers Included	Top Reasons for Leaving
2009-2010	53	3,100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • Reduction in force • Personal reasons
2010-2011	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • Reduction in force • Personal reasons
2011-2012	36	3,164	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • Transferring to another Louisiana district • Personal reasons
2012-2013	All (69)	6,083	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • Transferring to another Louisiana district • Personal reasons
2013-2014	All (69)	6,485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement • Transferring to another Louisiana district • Personal reasons

In five years of reporting, the top reasons for leaving have been consistent. In all five years, retirement was the primary reason for leaving. Reduction in force has decreasingly been reported as a reason for leaving. During the 2013-2014 school year, teachers left their positions for a variety of reasons, illustrated here:

All Responses	Total Number	Percentages
Retirement	1,808	28%
Employment in the education field/accepted another job in a Louisiana district or school	1507	23%
Personal reasons	916	14%
Family/personal relocation	480	7%
Homemaking/caring for a family member/maternity leave	473	7%
Employment in the education field-accepted a position in an out-of-state district or school	303	5%
Employment outside of the field of education	235	4%
Certification issue - non-standard certificate holder not re-employed because a certified teacher was hired	192	3%
Illness/disability	95	1%
Discharge due to unsuitability	86	1%
Reduction in force/layoff	76	1%
Change of assignment within the district - accepted a non-teaching position in the same district	75	1%
No response/unable to contact	57	1%

Dissatisfaction with school or district climate/discipline/classroom control	52	1%
Salary	45	1%
No response/refused interview	37	1%
Death	20	<1%
Dissatisfaction with school or district climate/duties incompatible with educational training	13	<1%
Dissatisfaction with school or district climate/poor curriculum planning	10	<1%
Lost credential	5	<1%
TOTAL	6,485	100%