# Impact of COVID-19 on the K-12 education workforce: One year later

In May 2021, **MissionSquare Research Institute** conducted an online survey of 1,203 state and local government employees (493 K-12 employees and 710 other government employees), fielded by Greenwald Research. Final data were weighted by gender, age, income, and industry type to reflect the distribution of the state and local government workforce as found in the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and the U.S. Census of Governments.

Since the start of the pandemic, the size of the state and local government workforce has decreased by nearly 1.3 million, with almost 1 million of those job losses occurring in state and local government education (Source: BLS).

## Vaccine status and views (as of May 2021)



of K-12 workers were fully vaccinated, as compared with 67% of other state and local government employees.





K-12 workers **less likely** than others (47%) to think government employers should **mandate vaccines**.

K-12 workers **more likely** than other government employees (43%) to have been **strongly encouraged** to get vaccinated by their employer.

# **Changes at school**

#### Nature of job and difficulty adjusting

COVID has impacted the nature of their job



Has been very/extremely difficult to adjust to these changes

others **22%** K-12 **42%** 

#### K-12 employee work location and hours



**38%** worked in schools holding **classes fully in-person** in May 2021



working more hours (either officially or unofficially) than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### The top reasons for this are:

#### 73%

The extra work

work entails

that online/remote

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**45%** Social distancing protocols/limitations on class size

#### 42%

Increased parent/ student meetings/ communications

# Impact on students



#### 77%

of K-12 employees say that **internet** access/speed for students learning from home has been an issue during the pandemic.



# 69%

say school technology capabilities have been an issue during the pandemic.



### 90%

concerned about students in their school falling behind as a result of the pandemic; 34% are extremely concerned.

# **Financial outlook**

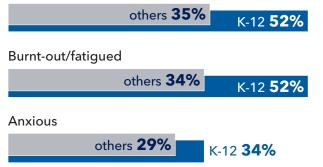
K-12 employees **more likely** than other government workers to say that:

	K-12	Others
Pandemic has <b>negatively</b> impacted them and their family financially	50%	35%
Concerned about being able to retire when they want	44%	36%
Have reduced general saving	38%	29%

# Morale and job satisfaction

#### Top 3 emotions felt at work

Stressed



# Views on working in the public sector during COVID

others 27%

The pandemic has made the public more aware of the importance of what I do



The risks I'm taking working during the pandemic are not on par with my compensation

others **43%** K-12 **59%** 

Working during the pandemic has made me consider changing jobs

K-12 **37%** 



MissionSquare Research Institute conducted surveys in May 2020, October 2020, and May 2021 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public sector workers' financial and employment outlooks, and health and safety concerns. Visit **slge.org/workforce** for past infographics and reports and be on the lookout for the full report of K-12 results in September 2021.

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