

The Collapse of Public Education in the US

Investing in our teachers is the only
solution to save our education system.

Teachers Are the Foundation: Without Them, Education Fails

Think for a moment...

Who was your most impactful teacher? Did their trust in you make you feel known? Did they consistently challenge you to do your best because they knew you well enough to motivate you?

Well-prepared, well-supported, and energized teachers form relationships with students that change lives. This generation of learners, however, may never experience those relationships.

Because today, teachers are leaving classrooms at incredibly high rates; and while they're still in the classroom, they don't have the emotional bandwidth to fully invest in relationships with students.

Many educators are unprepared for the challenges they face in the classroom, and professional development all but stops once teachers begin their career. While administrators are acutely aware of the importance of ongoing professional development, the difficult business of running a school has forced them to prioritize putting out fires over long-term sustainability.

This is a devastating and urgent problem. Right now, 44% of new teachers leave the profession within five years. Teacher attrition costs the U.S. more than \$7B annually¹ and impacts the quality of education our children receive.

Teacher preparation and experience are the most important factors in determining student outcomes. In addition to teachers leaving after short stints in the classroom, more than 25% of the teaching force is uncertified or became certified through alternative pathways. Those who have chosen to go into the profession deserve the support necessary to ensure they, and their students, are successful. What's more, the lack of continued high-quality professional development is exacerbated in under-served communities—further driving inequity.

If we are not supporting our teachers—the backbone of our public education system—how can we continue to enrich our students, communities, and our society?

Can Public Education Be Saved?

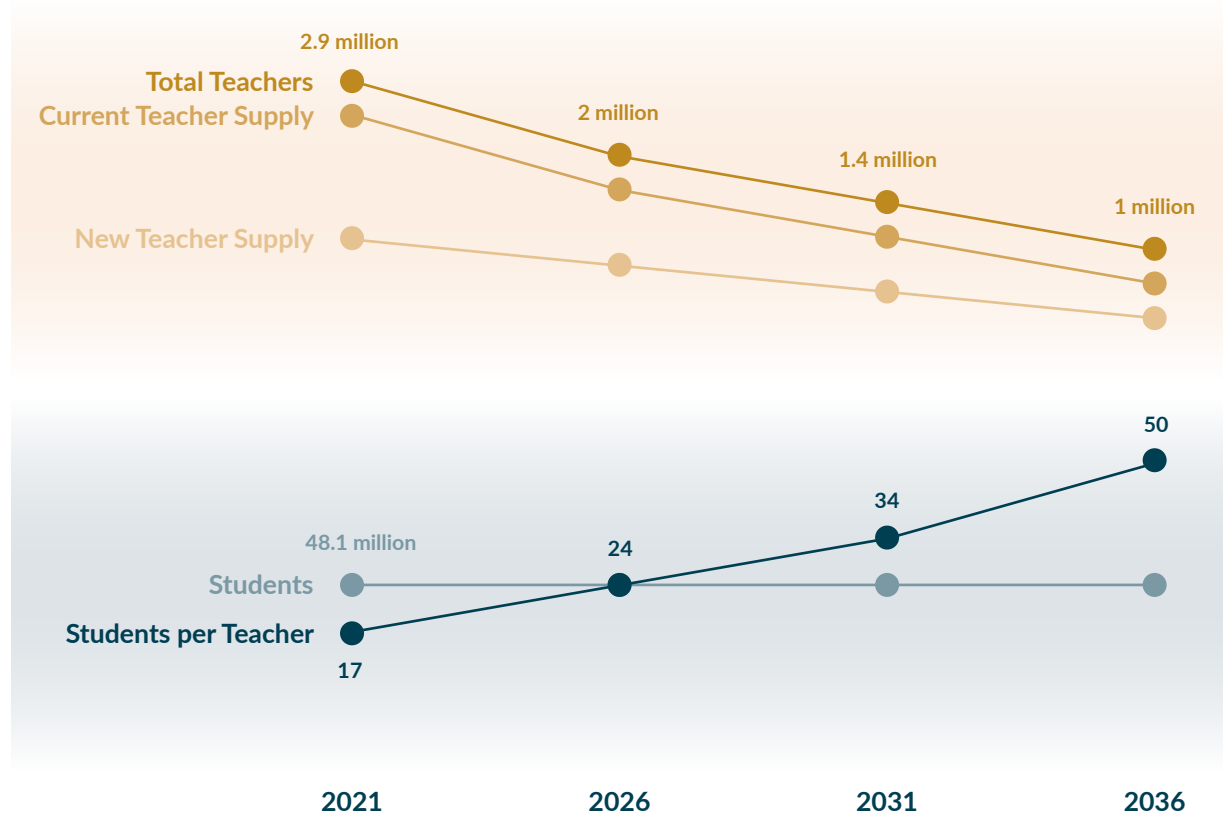
What happens to our education system if teachers, the “number one influence on student achievement,” continue to go unsupported?

Our schools are hemorrhaging teachers. In the U.S., more than 270,000 teachers are expected to leave the profession by 2026², and the number of undergraduates entering teacher preparation programs is declining each year.

We’ve done the math, and it’s bleak.

At the current rate, within 15 years the average teacher-to-student ratio will be 1:50. One teacher. Fifty students. Who could teach in that environment? Who could learn in that environment?

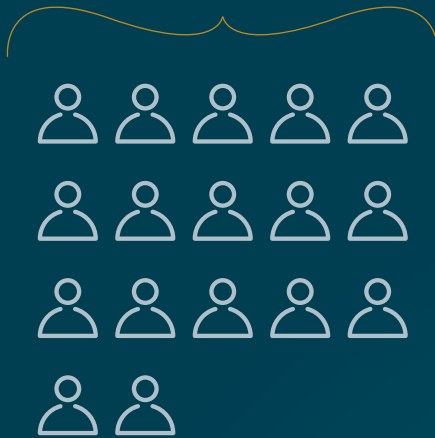
Schools cannot exist without teachers. It is imperative we commit to supporting our educators and provide them with the tools they need to stay in the classroom.



2021

1:17

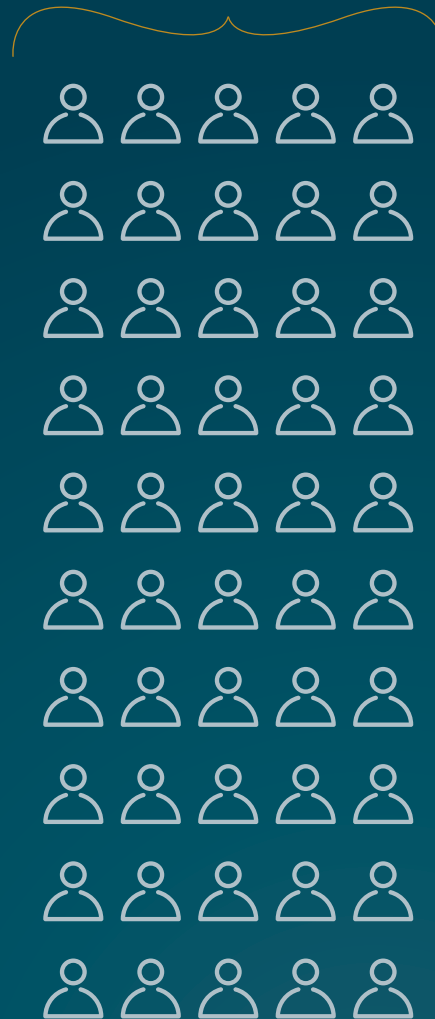
Teacher-to-Student Ratio



2036

1:50

Teacher-to-Student Ratio



The teacher shortage crisis cannot be solved with the current practices in place. The answer does not lie in trying to fill the classroom with more substitute teachers, nor does it lie in placing students in front of computers with “student-led” curricula. It relies on us supporting and developing our existing talent and the talent entering the teaching profession. We have work to do now.

Teacher–Support Transforms Public Education

Nearly half of teachers spend upwards of 10 hours every week building their own instructional content (increasing from 22% in 2019) in addition to the time they spend in the classroom. Without better preparation tools, teachers will not be able to confidently and successfully educate their students.

The average school district spends \$4.4 million annually on digital curriculum resources. This highlights the unquestionable need for ease, support, and guidance for teachers, along with cost effectiveness and efficiency for districts.

The problem is these tools are often low-quality, open-sourced, and built to push teachers out rather than elevate them.

What if school leaders had better options? What if teachers had options that met at the intersection of technology and tradition?

With a different, tailored instructional tool, the teaching experience will transform for both educators and school leaders, thus impacting students. Not only will educators have the tools they need to teach effectively with support and guidance, but school leaders will also save money and be able to repurpose funds spent on the exponential costs of teacher attrition.

Amid the growing teacher shortage and the lack of resources for educators, we are in dire need of something that not only has an immediate impact on student achievement, but also commits to serving and supporting teachers in the long run.

That's where we come in.

“Delivering a world–class public education to every single student in America requires more than short–term Band–Aids. It requires a unified, non–politicized, authentic attempt to address the reinforcement of and transformation of one of the most important institutions in our country, and that is our public education system.”

– Kim Anderson, Executive Director of the National Education Association³



ALEE commits to teacher success because our education system depends on it.

Alexandria Learning Ecosystem for Educators (ALEE) aims to upend the teacher shortage by focusing on teacher retention.

ALEE transforms teacher development, commits to teacher success, and ensures that the right to a quality education survives beyond our current teacher shortage.

Teachers can never be replaced by technology. ALEE is about getting back to basics for literacy instruction in a tech-enabled but teacher-first approach. We provide curated instructional engagements for high-quality literary works in their full form. Teaching literacy effectively is difficult. Teaching to meet the needs of all students is even more difficult, which is why all of ALEE's instructional content is scaffolded at multiple levels.

ALEE enables teachers to choose how they want to use that content in their lesson plans, providing an important balance of guidance and autonomy. The more teachers use the platform, the more their content expertise and pedagogical skills develop, as the pedagogical material is generalizable to future lessons.

The content is curated and tagged by subject matter experts—teachers with proven track records of success. Through this approach, ALEE commits to ensuring that all educators are resourced, supported, and empowered to be autonomous and confident in the classroom from year one to retirement.

About ALEE

Founded in 2021 by long-time educator and school leader, Marjorie Cass, ALEE empowers educators to create intellectually rigorous content and instructional materials, while developing as educators. ALEE is 100% committed to supporting educators from year one to retirement by investing in their growth and equipping them with the support needed to provide rigorous learning opportunities for all students and fulfilling the promise of equitable education for all. Learn more at myalee.com and follow our journey in supporting educators.

**A teacher.
A student.
And a book.**

Learn more: myalee.com

Follow us: [@my_alee_](https://twitter.com/my_alee)

Sources

1 National Commission on Teaching and America's Future: The High Cost of Teacher Turnover

2 Projections for teachers: How many are leaving the occupation?

3 Teachers find themselves in middle of paid leave debate as they face burnout, shortages