



March 25 Update

Snapshot

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

K-12 Teacher Shortage *Daily COVID-19 Cases Fall Below 125 this Week*

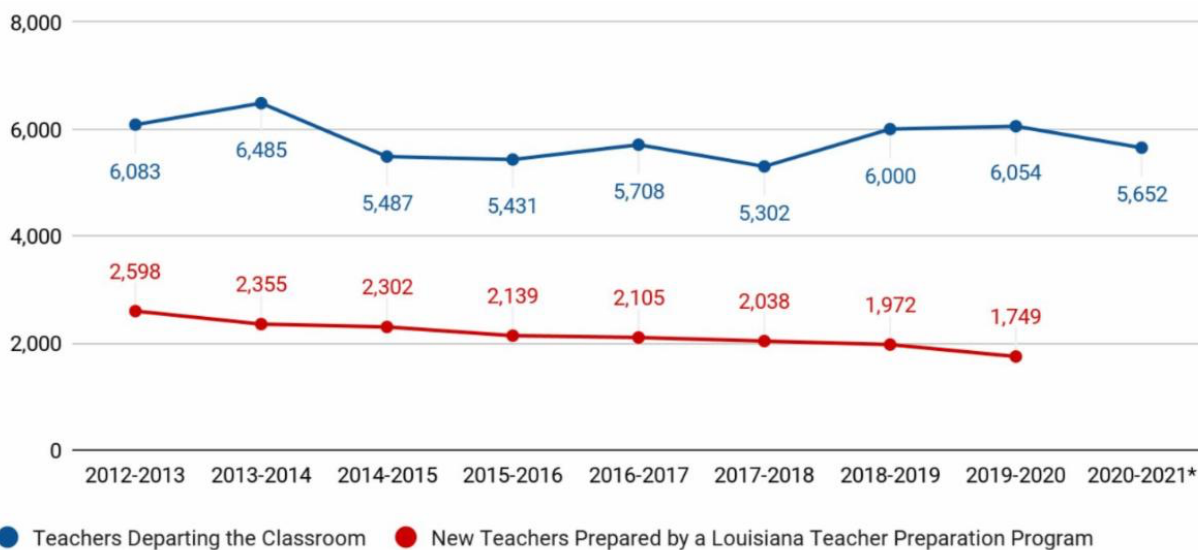
K-12 Teacher Shortage

Louisiana faces a two-pronged problem in maintaining adequate levels of teachers in its K-12 public schools, with more than one in 10 teachers leaving the classroom each year while the pipeline of new teachers also is significantly decreasing.

More than 5,600 teachers exited classrooms in the 2020-21 school year, 11% of the total teacher workforce, according to the latest data from the Louisiana Department of Education. That turnover rate has stayed largely consistent over the last decade.

State data has shown that 44% of departing teachers from 2016 through 2019 left within the first five years in the classroom, a troubling trend.

Teachers Departing and New Teachers by Academic Year

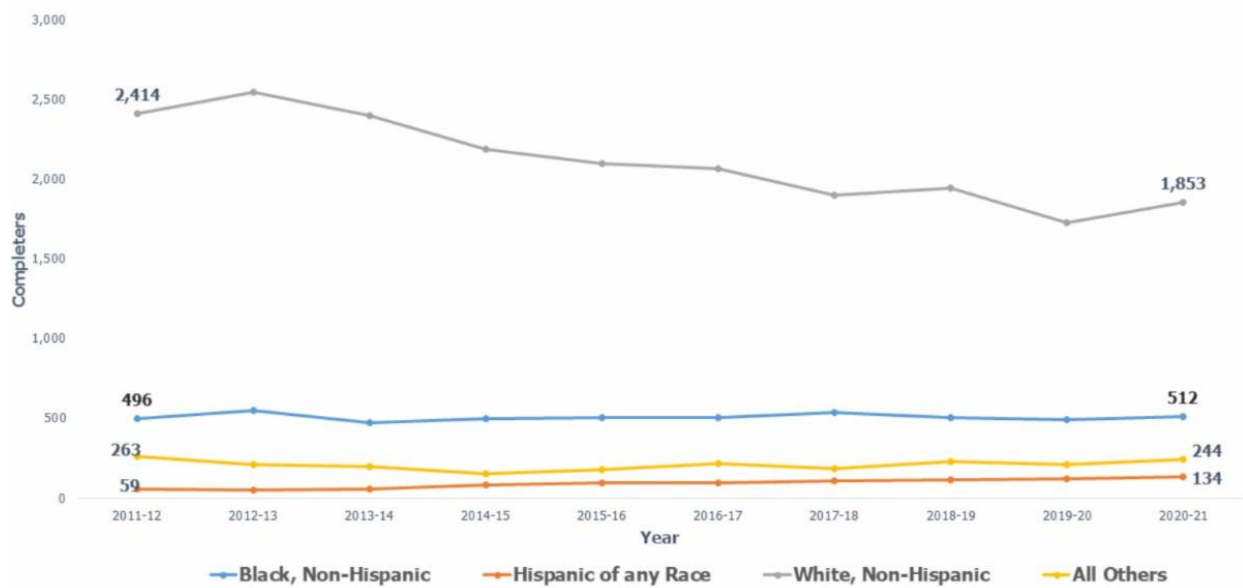


Source: Louisiana Department of Education

Meanwhile, enrollment and retention in Louisiana’s teacher training programs have steeply dropped. The number of students enrolled in the programs annually fell by about 4,200 from 2011 to 2020, similar to a national decline of more than 300,000 students between 2010 and 2018.

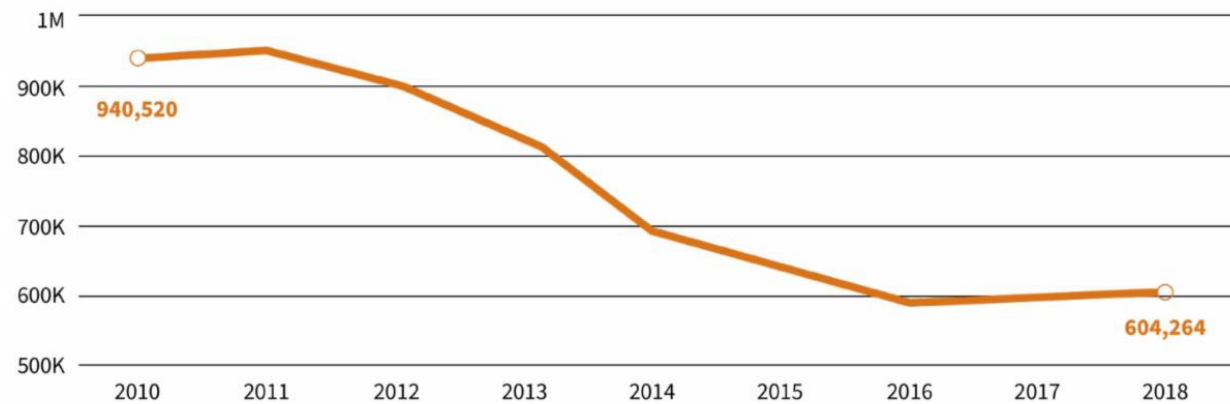
The number of Louisiana students finishing teacher education programs each year also fell over the last decade, from 2,414 in the 2011-12 school year to 1,853 by the 2020-21 school year, worsening the pipeline problem.

Teacher Training Program Completers in Louisiana



Source: Louisiana Board of Regents

National Teacher Training Program Enrollment



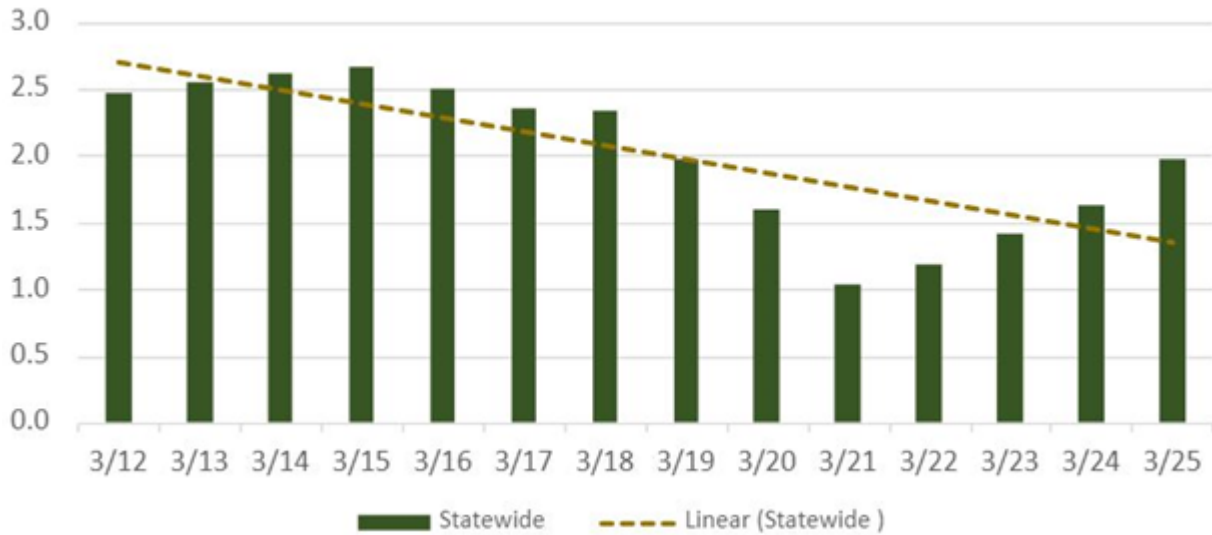
Source: Board of Regents based on U.S. Department of Education data

COVID-19 Update

*Daily COVID-19 Cases Below 125 this Week
3-Day Positivity Rate About 0.5%
117 New Confirmed Cases | 7 new Confirmed Deaths*

The Louisiana Department of Health reported 117 confirmed cases out of 20,592 tests on March 25. The three-day average of new cases was 91. There were about 3 patients in hospitals with COVID-19 per 100,000 residents. The LDH reported 7 confirmed deaths.

Statewide COVID Trends- DECREASING



Confirmed cases continue falling statewide.

The graphs in this report show the number of new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day period, which is a method used by the state. By calculating the cases according to population in this way, the results from region to region are easier to compare to determine the severity of the outbreak.

Region	14 Day Look-Back (3 Day Average)		
	3/23/2022	3/24/2022	3/25/2022
Orleans	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Capital	Decreasing	Decreasing	Plateau
Bayou	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Lafayette	Decreasing	Decreasing	Plateau
Lake Charles	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Central	Plateau	Plateau	Plateau
Shreveport	Plateau	Plateau	Plateau
Monroe	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing
Northshore	Decreasing	Plateau	Plateau
Statewide	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing

Decreasing

Increasing

Plateau

PAR uses an average of new cases over a three-day period to smooth out irregularities that could be related to reporting inconsistencies (LDH also uses multiple-day averaging). Then, a statistically derived trendline – in the form of a straight line – is fitted to the data to gauge whether cases are increasing, decreasing or have reached a plateau, according to the CDC definition for each.

These figures are based only on known cases. Some studies indicate that the number of people who have carried COVID-19 is far greater than the number who have taken the test and shown a positive result. An unknown but potentially large number of people have been infected but are asymptomatic and have not been tested. Others have taken at-home tests, and their positive results haven't necessarily been reported to the state.

Special thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation for supporting PAR's Louisiana Recovery Project.

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