

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Official report shows cuts to school staff for 2011-12 school year

MADISON — The state’s annual school staff report shows that school districts cut 2,312 positions for the 2011-12 school year, a 50 percent increase in staff losses from the previous school year.

The larger than usual cuts to school staff for the 2011-12 school year support projections from the Department of Workforce Development last fall. The majority of staff cuts, more than 60 percent, were among teachers.

- Statewide, 311 of 424 school districts, or 73 percent of districts, reported cutting teachers this year.
- Overall, public schools in Wisconsin are employing 1,446 fewer teachers this year than they did in the 2010-11 school year. This represents a 2.4 percent loss in full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff at a time when student enrollment is stable.
- The largest cuts statewide were to school librarians and career and technical education, special education, and reading teachers. For the current school year, there are 414 fewer elementary teachers in public schools, which is a staffing cut of about 2 percent statewide.

Position	1-Year FTE Decrease*	
	Number	Percent
Career and Technical Education	177	6.0%
Elementary (All Subjects)	414	2.0%
Librarians	94	9.6%
Mathematics	47	1.3%
Reading	64	4.6%
Science	49	1.5%
Special Education	123	1.5%

\* 2011-12 teaching staff compared to 2010-11.

“Losses in school staff erode our public education system,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “We want our students to graduate college and career ready and must make a bipartisan investment in public education instead of continually forcing cuts on school districts. I proposed ‘Fair Funding for Our Future’ to reform our broken school finance system in 2010 and will include this needed fix in my education budget request this fall. Wisconsin needs a better path forward for public education.”

The 2011-13 state budget made historically high cuts to education funding. General school aids were cut by \$749 million and the per pupil revenue limit was reduced by \$1.6 billion from prior law. These large reductions accelerated the budget and staffing cuts many districts have been making over the years due to revenue controls

(more)

imposed in 1993-94 and declining enrollment in some areas of the state. For the 2011-12 school year, \$82.3 million in Federal Education Jobs Act money was available to school districts to buffer school funding cuts. This funding will not be available next year.

Statewide, declining enrollment slowed this year, though individual districts may have experienced differing changes in year-to-year enrollments. For each of the past two school years, staffing cuts were between 1,400 and 1,500 positions per year statewide, compared to 2,312 for the current year. For the 2011-12 school year, 315 of 424 school districts, or 74 percent of districts, cut staff. Of the districts that increased staffing, more than half reported increased enrollment.

School districts provide information to the Department of Public Instruction about school staff each year through the PI 1202 Staff Report to fulfill various federal reporting requirements. Additionally, the DPI uses the data to ensure that highly qualified teachers are in Wisconsin classrooms and to determine eligibility for special education aid. The DPI also publishes the data to provide information to the education community, researchers, and the public and to fill the many requests the agency receives for salary and experience data.

Data from the annual state staff report can be accessed online through the Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS) [website](#) or through the Statistical Information Center School Staff and Salary Data [website](#).\*

Analysis of data from the PI 1202 Staff Report shows:

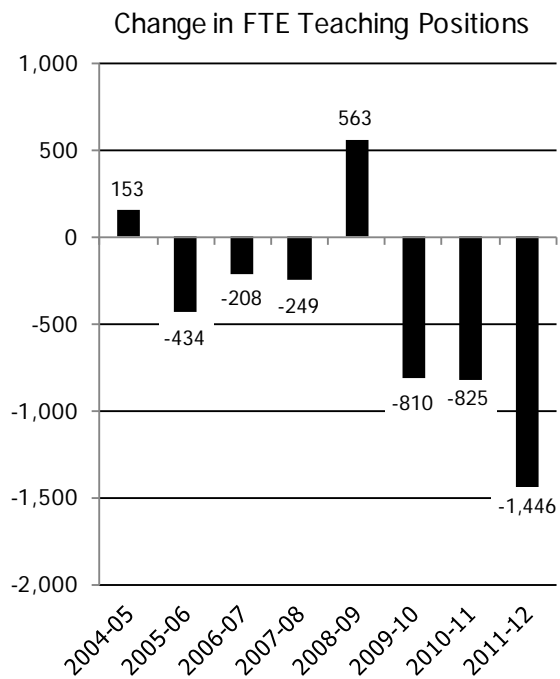
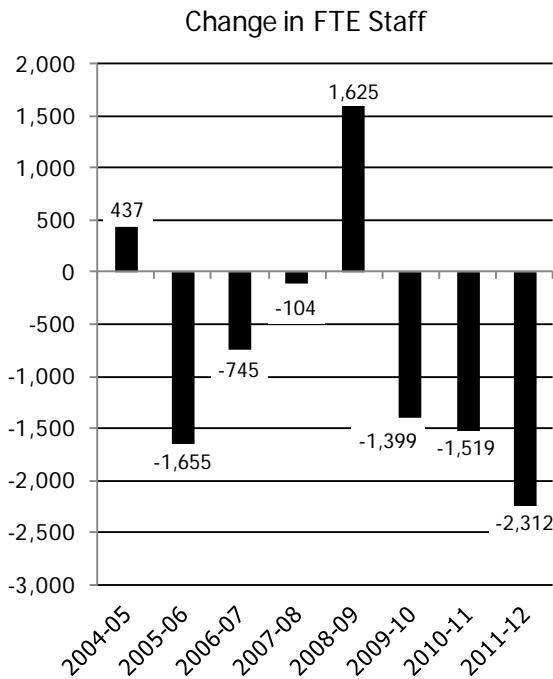
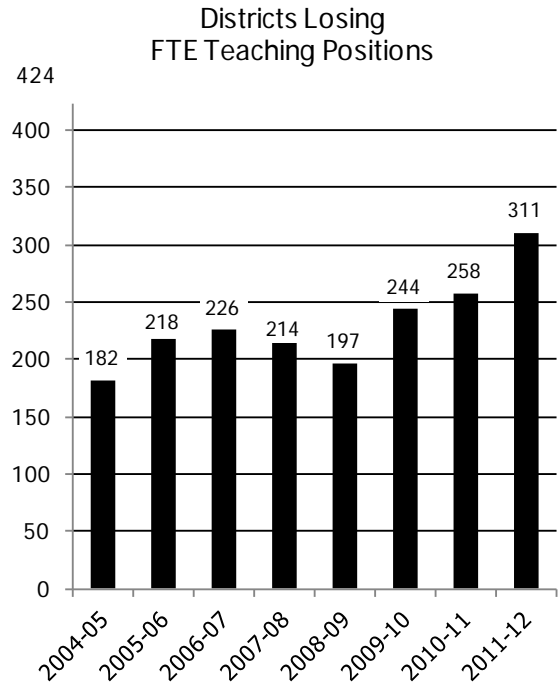
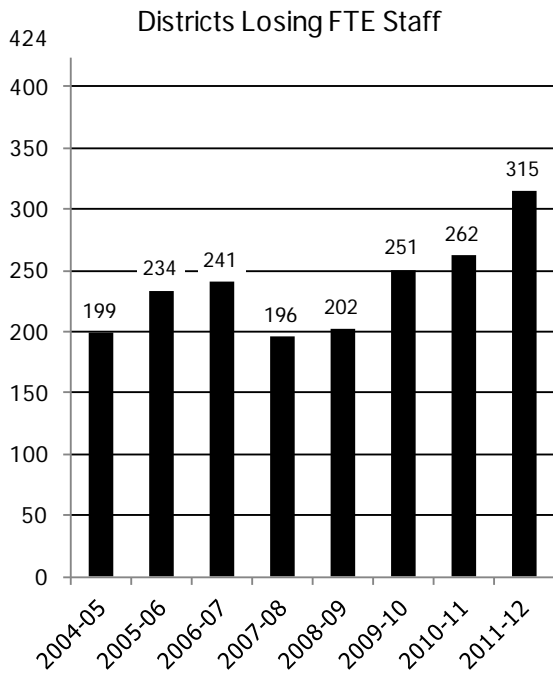
- Statewide, 315 school districts cut staff from the previous school year and 311 school districts cut teaching positions.
- Of the 2,312 staff cuts statewide, reductions by category are 82 administrators, 284 aides, 463 other support staff, 38 pupil services staff, and 1,446 teachers.
- The 1,446 lost teaching positions statewide represent a 75 percent increase in the annual loss to teaching staff over the prior year. Wisconsin has 59,384 FTE teachers statewide for the 2011-12 school year.

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\* The data used for this report is for staff in their work district and is for the state's 424 school districts. The Wisconsin Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS) adds data for independent charter and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction residential schools. There are also some differences in how staff are categorized in the reports. Because of these differences, WINSS data will vary slightly from information provided through the Statistical Information Center School Staff and Salary Data and from the data in this news release.

**NOTES:** Additional charts are attached. A district-by-district list of staffing data and a map of teaching position changes by district can be found on the Department of Public Instruction's newsroom website <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/newsroom.html>. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012\\_58.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012_58.pdf).

# Statewide Staffing Information



\* The data is for staff in their work district and is for the state's 424 school districts.