

## MREA K-12 School Funding Survey – Analysis of Survey Responses

The K-12 School Funding Survey requested answers to 20 questions, some of which had multiple parts. Of these 20 questions, half were simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ or multiple-choice questions. The remaining were more open-ended questions and are more difficult to summarize. We have attempted to perform statistical summarization where possible by showing distribution of the numeric responses into as many as five groups for each question, and we have also provided some narrative discussion to shed additional light on the types of responses received. Fifty-two (52) school districts responded to the survey. The respondent for each district was very thorough in answering all of the questions posed in the survey.

Question	Category A/ # Responses	Category B/ # Responses	Category C/ # Responses	Category D/ # Responses	Category E/ # Responses
2. How many teachers has your district lost in:	< 2	2-5	6-10	11-25	>25 *
A. the last year?	22	19	8	1	2
B. the last 5 years?	1	10	20	16	3
3. Has your district seen a decline in the number of applicants for open positions over the last 5 years?	Yes	No			
	44	8			
4. Has your district seen a decline in the number of applicants for open positions over the last 10 years?	Yes	No			
	46	6			
5. Has your district seen a decline in the quality of applicants recently as compared to 10 years ago?	Yes	No			
	43	9			
6. Please rate the quality of current applicants compared to applicants for openings:	Current much better	Current better	Current the same as	Current worse	Current much worse
A. 5 years ago.	2	1	22	26	1
B. 10 years ago.	3	4	12	23	10
7. What percentage of your teachers are eligible for retirement:	0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%
A. now?	31	14	6	1	0
B. in 5 years?	19	14	14	4	1
8. List the number of anticipated openings your district may have:	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-40	>40 *
A. next year.	45	3	1	1	1
B. in 5 years.	28	6	9	2	4
Note: one district responded “we’ll be annexed by then”.					
9. What are the total new ongoing dollars your district will receive as a result of the 2007 regular and special sessions:	\$0-25,000	25,001-100,000	100,001-250,000	250,001-1,000,000	>1,000,000 *
A. in FY08.	10	15	6	6	3
B. in FY09.	12	9	6	1	1
Note: Several were unable to determine at this time; three said that revenues will decrease (because of declining enrollment); some split the impact by Elementary and High School.					

10. Please estimate the percentage of your needs that these new dollars meet within your district.	<b>0-20%</b>	<b>21-40%</b>	<b>41-60%</b>	<b>61-80%</b>	<b>81-100% *</b>
	9	10	5	15	8
Note: Some indicated differing impacts in each of the next two fiscal years.					
11. List the number of deviations ("dings") that your district has received for accreditation violations in the most recent year for which you have a report.	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>&gt;5</b>
	16	15	17	3	1
12. Have you experienced an increase in accreditation violations in the past 5 years?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	28	24			
13. Will your district be offering full-time kindergarten as a result of the 2007 regular and special session funding provided?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	28	24			
14. Estimate the percentage of funding that will be provided to your district by the state for offering full-time kindergarten.	<b>0-20%</b>	<b>21-40%</b>	<b>41-60%</b>	<b>61-80%</b>	<b>81-100% *</b>
	12	4	6	9	17
15. Was the need for your district to receive the new state funds available for offering full-time kindergarten a major factor in the final decision to provide these additional services within your district?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	24	28			
16. Is your district able to efficiently and effectively make the best use of all "earmarked" funds provided by the state?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	16	36			
17. Do you believe that schools should have been provided additional flexibility in the use of "earmarked" funds?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	49	3			
18. Prior or during the 2007 regular and special session did your district receive any direct communications of any kind from the Governor's Office, the Governor's Budget Office regarding the impact that their proposals would have on your district?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>			
	5	47			
19. List the percent of increase of the base that your teachers will receive during the upcoming year.	<b>0-1%</b>	<b>1.1 – 2%</b>	<b>2.1 – 3%</b>	<b>3.1 – 4%</b>	<b>&gt;4% *</b>
	6	2	13	16	11
Note: A couple of districts indicated that negotiations are not yet complete.					
20. What is the average annual percent of increase on the base received by your teachers over the past 5 years?	<b>0-1%</b>	<b>1.1 - 2%</b>	<b>2.1 - 3%</b>	<b>3.1 - 4%</b>	<b>&gt;4%</b>
	3	9	23	15	2
21. What health insurance and other benefits are provided to teachers by the district?					
A. District contribution	<b>Full for employee</b>	<b>Less than full</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>None</b>	
	25	18	8	1	
B. Employee contribution	Too variable to quantify in any useful fashion; related to A, above.				

C. Deductible (Individual, not Family)	<b>\$0-500</b>	<b>501-1,000</b>	<b>1,001-2,000</b>	<b>2,001-3,000</b>	<b>Other or Variable *</b>
	20	18	6	0	4
D. Co-pay Split	<b>60-40</b>	<b>70-30</b>	<b>80-20</b>	<b>Other or Variable *</b>	
	1	7	28	9	
E. Maximum out-of-pocket	<b>\$0-1,999</b>	<b>2,000-2,999</b>	<b>3,000-3,999</b>	<b>Other or Variable *</b>	
	16	15	5	11	
F. Other benefits	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Dental</b>	<b>Life</b>	<b>Rx</b>	<b>None</b>
	13	16	13	4	18
Note: The counts for F. reflect each option indicated by each district respondent; therefore they add to greater than 52.					

\* Some of the responses to these questions were “outliers” which could not be assigned to any of the response categories assigned. Question 21 was particularly difficult to quantify because of the high degree of variability. See the Notes for additional discussion.