

JUST THE FACTS - TEACHER SHORTAGE

Indiana is not the only state facing a teacher shortage. It is a national and global issue.

- A simple Google search for “teacher shortage” will return stories in Iowa, Hawaii, Missouri, Kansas, California, Arizona, and many other states, including Indiana.
- *Education Journal* reported in May 2015 that Great Britain is projected to have a shortage of qualified teachers impacting 100,000 students in the fall of 2016.

It is simplistic to suggest education reform efforts in Indiana or actions by state leaders are driving young people away from the teaching profession.

- According to [Education Week](#), California, a pro-union/anti-reform state, enrollment in teacher preparation programs dropped by more than 55 percent from 2008 to 2012.
- [Education Week](#) also reported that New York, a pro-union/non-reform state, saw a drop of over 12,000 in enrollments in teacher prep programs from 2008 to 2012.
- Florida, a pro-reform state, had an insignificant drop of 1,000 in enrollments in teacher prep programs from 2008 to 2012 according to [Education Week](#).

Indiana’s teaching profession has remained fairly stable in recent years.

- Indiana had nearly identical number of teachers in the fall of 2012 (59,863) compared to fall of 2000 (59,226).
- According to data provided by the Indiana Department of Education to the federal government and *Indianapolis Star*, and is being widely reported, the number of first-time teacher licenses has dropped nearly 18.5% between 2009 and 2014, but that number only drops 6% if you compare 2008 to 2014.

There are many potential reasons for the national and global teacher shortage.

- According to the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS), the average number of teacher retirements in Indiana more than doubled in recent years. Is it due to baby boomers retiring, early retirement incentives, other reasons, or some/all of the above?
 - Average retirements per year 1990-2009 = 1,631
 - Average retirements per year 2010-2015 = 4,169
- Is the teaching profession a victim of its own negative messaging?
 - [Education Week](#) published a historical look at teachers discouraging students from entering the profession that goes back decades.
- Do we actually have a teacher shortage or merely a shortage of teachers in specific subject areas?
 - Ball State economist, Dr. Michael Hicks, published a [report](#) in July that showed employment growth (in some cases double-digit growth) in the number of teachers from 2013 to 2014.

What national media outlets are saying about the teacher shortage

- *National Public Radio* – [“Teacher Shortage? Or Teacher Pipeline Problem?”](#)
- *New York Times* – [“Teacher Shortages Spur a Nationwide Hiring Scramble”](#)
- *Education Week* – [“Is There a Teacher Shortage? It Depends How You Frame It”](#)
- *PBS Newshour* – [“Is the Teaching Profession Going Backwards?”](#)