



TOPLINE & METHODOLOGY

NPR Education and AI Survey

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of American adult K-12 Teachers (ages 18+)
Interview dates: April 27 – May 5, 2026
Number of interviews: 545

Margin of error: +/- 5.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for all respondents

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents, N/A = not applicable

Annotated Questionnaire

1. Do you currently work as an educator in...

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=545)	2023 K-12 Teachers (N=510)	2019 K-12 Teachers (N=505)¹	2018 K-12 Teachers (N=504)
Preschool	7%	5%	N/A	N/A
Kindergarten	25%	19%	12%	14%
1st-5th grade	47%	48%	42%	44%
6th-8th grade	33%	27%	12%	12%
9th-10th grade	34%	33%	33%	21%
11th-12th grade	34%	35%	32%	25%
None of the above	-	-	N/A	N/A
Skipped	-	-	N/A	N/A

*Note: In the April 2018 and March 2019 polls, this question was asked as, "Do you currently work as an educator in..."

¹ When assessing trends in the data, please note the impact of potential mode effects. While this most recent poll utilizes a nationally representative probability sample using the KnowledgePanel®, the April 2018 and March 2019 polls used non-probability opt-in samples that calibrated respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments.



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2. To what extent are you happy or unhappy that you became a teacher?

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers
Very happy	44%	37%
Somewhat happy	41%	44%
Somewhat unhappy	11%	15%
Very unhappy	3%	4%
Don't know	2%	1%
Skipped	-	*
<i>Happy (net)</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>Unhappy (net)</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>18%</i>

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers	2018 K-12 Teachers
I became a teacher because I wanted to do good	97%	95%	93%
I became a teacher because I like educating	96%	96%	92%
I became a teacher because I wanted a stable career	87%	80%	74%
I became a teacher because it was an obtainable job	70%	59%	53%

a. I became a teacher because I wanted to do good

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers	2018 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	72%	70%	72%
Somewhat agree	26%	25%	21%
Somewhat disagree	1%	3%	2%
Strongly disagree	*	1%	2%
Don't know	*	1%	3%
Skipped	1%	*	N/A
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>97%</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>93%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>4%</i>





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3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Continued)

b. I became a teacher because I like educating

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers	2018 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	75%	76%	72%
Somewhat agree	21%	19%	20%
Somewhat disagree	3%	2%	2%
Strongly disagree	*	2%	1%
Don't know	1%	*	4%
Skipped	1%	1%	N/A
Agree (net)	96%	96%	92%
Disagree (net)	3%	3%	3%

c. I became a teacher because I wanted a stable career

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers	2018 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	41%	33%	28%
Somewhat agree	46%	46%	47%
Somewhat disagree	7%	13%	15%
Strongly disagree	4%	6%	5%
Don't know	2%	1%	5%
Skipped	*	*	N/A
Agree (net)	87%	80%	74%
Disagree (net)	11%	19%	21%

d. I became a teacher because it was an obtainable job

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers	2018 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	27%	22%	15%
Somewhat agree	43%	37%	38%
Somewhat disagree	15%	23%	22%
Strongly disagree	12%	16%	19%
Don't know	2%	2%	6%
Skipped	*	1%	N/A
Agree (net)	70%	59%	53%
Disagree (net)	27%	39%	41%





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4. Based on what you may know or feel, in the last ten years, has each of the following gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?

Better Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers
How technology is used to advance student learning	46%	N/A
The quality of public education in your area	16%	12%
The level of trust between teachers and students	12%	N/A
Working conditions for teachers in your area	11%	10%
The public's perceptions of teachers	8%	10%

- a. The public's perceptions of teachers

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers
Better	8%	10%
Worse	70%	73%
Stayed the same	21%	16%
Skipped	1%	*

- b. Working conditions for teachers in your area

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers
Better	11%	10%
Worse	63%	66%
Stayed the same	26%	24%
Skipped	*	*

- c. The quality of public education in your area

	2026 K-12 Teachers	2023 K-12 Teachers
Better	16%	12%
Worse	48%	46%
Stayed the same	35%	41%
Skipped	1%	*

- d. How technology is used to advance student learning

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Better	46%
Worse	41%
Stayed the same	13%
Skipped	*





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4. Based on what you may know or feel, in the last ten years, has each of the following gotten better, worse, or stayed the same? *(Continued)*

- e. The level of trust between teachers and students

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Better	12%
Worse	49%
Stayed the same	39%
Skipped	*

5. On average, how many days per school week, if any, is AI being used for each of the following scenarios? For each, please enter a number between 0 and 5 below.

- a. By your students in the classroom

	2026 K-12 Teachers
0	56%
1	11%
2	9%
3	4%
4	3%
5	14%
Skipped	3%
<i>Mean (incl 0)</i>	<i>1.3</i>

- b. By you, for lesson planning or other prep/administrative work

	2026 K-12 Teachers
0	44%
1	22%
2	13%
3	6%
4	4%
5	8%
Skipped	2%
<i>Mean (incl 0)</i>	<i>1.3</i>





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5. On average, how many days per school week, if any, is AI being used for each of the following scenarios? For each, please enter a number between 0 and 5 below. *(Continued)*

c. By you, during actual lessons or instruction scenarios

	2026 K-12 Teachers
0	74%
1	10%
2	4%
3	6%
4	1%
5	2%
Skipped	3%
<i>Mean (incl 0)</i>	<i>0.5</i>

6. Have you used artificial intelligence to help with any of your work or tasks as a teacher?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	62%
No	37%
Skipped	1%

7. Which of the following, if any, have you used AI tools to help you with as a teacher? Please select all that apply.

Base: Q6 = Yes

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=339)
Creating study guides, quizzes, or classroom materials	69%
Writing or planning lessons and units	52%
Administrative tasks (scheduling, paperwork, emails)	42%
Communicating with parents or writing reports	41%
Creating custom learning plans for students at different skill levels	40%
Grading or providing written feedback on student work	15%
Other	7%
Skipped	*





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8. Thinking about your own use of AI in your work as a teacher, would you say AI has made you more productive and efficient, less productive and efficient, or has it made no difference?

Base: Q6 = Yes

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=339)
More productive and efficient	69%
Less productive and efficient	2%
No impact on my productivity and efficiency	29%
Skipped	*

9. What impact, if any, has AI had on the quality of your teaching materials?

Base: Q6 = Yes

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=339)
AI has improved the quality of my teaching materials a lot	16%
AI has improved the quality of my teaching materials a little	56%
AI has not improved the quality of my teaching materials	28%
Skipped	*

10. Roughly how much time, if any, do you save because of AI tools in your teaching?

Base: Q6 = Yes

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=339)
More than 5 hours per week	8%
3-5 hours per week	14%
1-2 hours per week	34%
Less than one hour per week	29%
I don't save any time	14%
Skipped	*





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11. Thinking about your students' use of AI for schoolwork, how well do each of the following statements describe your own views?

Total Extremely/Very Well Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers
AI is mostly just a shortcut that students use to avoid doing more work	55%
AI makes it harder for students to learn critical thinking skills	54%
AI gives students more room to explore ideas	9%
AI helps students who are behind catch up with their peers	3%

a. AI gives students more room to explore ideas

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Extremely well	2%
Very well	7%
Somewhat well	31%
Not too well	21%
Not at all well	19%
I have not had enough experience with AI	19%
Skipped	2%
<i>Extremely/Very Well (net)</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Well (net)</i>	<i>40%</i>

b. AI is mostly just a shortcut that students use to avoid doing more work

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Extremely well	33%
Very well	22%
Somewhat well	21%
Not too well	4%
Not at all well	4%
I have not had enough experience with AI	15%
Skipped	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Well (net)</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Well (net)</i>	<i>8%</i>





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11. Thinking about your students' use of AI for schoolwork, how well do each of the following statements describe your own views? (*Continued*)

c. AI helps students who are behind catch up with their peers

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Extremely well	1%
Very well	2%
Somewhat well	16%
Not too well	31%
Not at all well	29%
I have not had enough experience with AI	19%
Skipped	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Well (net)</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Well (net)</i>	<i>61%</i>

d. AI makes it harder for students to learn critical thinking skills

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Extremely well	36%
Very well	18%
Somewhat well	18%
Not too well	6%
Not at all well	5%
I have not had enough experience with AI	16%
Skipped	1%
<i>Extremely/Very Well (net)</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Not too/Not at all Well (net)</i>	<i>11%</i>

12. Does your school have each of the following or not?

Yes Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers
AI software provided for teachers to use	44%
Professional development or training on AI provided for teachers	44%
A formal policy on student use of AI	33%
A formal policy on teacher use of AI	23%
AI software provided for students to use	21%





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12. Does your school have each of the following or not? (Continued)

a. A formal policy on student use of AI

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	33%
No	65%
Skipped	2%

b. A formal policy on teacher use of AI

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	23%
No	75%
Skipped	2%

c. AI software provided for students to use

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	21%
No	77%
Skipped	2%

d. AI software provided for teachers to use

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	44%
No	55%
Skipped	2%

e. Professional development or training on AI provided for teachers

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	44%
No	55%
Skipped	2%





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13. Overall, which of the following better describes your school's approach to AI?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
They are encouraging teachers to use AI in the classroom	39%
They are discouraging teachers from using AI in the classroom	7%
They have not offered guidance / I'm not sure what the guidance is	52%
Skipped	1%

14. Have you done any of the following in your classroom because of AI?

Yes Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Require more assignments to be done by hand	39%
Require more assignments to be done in class	39%
Assign less homework because of concerns about AI	16%
Redesign assignments, so AI assistance is allowed or expected	13%

a. Require more assignments to be done by hand

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	39%
No	59%
Skipped	2%

b. Require more assignments to be done in class

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	39%
No	60%
Skipped	1%

c. Assign less homework because of concerns about AI

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	16%
No	82%
Skipped	2%





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14. Have you done any of the following in your classroom because of AI? (*Continued*)

d. Redesign assignments, so AI assistance is allowed or expected

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	13%
No	85%
Skipped	2%

15. How reliable, if at all, do you find AI detection software?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Very reliable	4%
Somewhat reliable	32%
Not too reliable	15%
Not at all reliable	5%
I have never used AI detection software	42%
Skipped	1%
<i>Reliable (net)</i>	<i>36%</i>
<i>Not reliable (net)</i>	<i>21%</i>

16. How much do you rely on AI detection software for the following?

Base: Q15 ≠ "I have never used AI detection software" or Skipped

a. Determining whether a student's work is their own

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=291)
A lot	13%
A little	38%
None	48%
Skipped	1%

b. Grading student work

	2026 K-12 Teachers (N=291)
A lot	3%
A little	23%
None	72%
Skipped	1%





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17. Do you believe your school or district should provide teachers with free access to AI detection software?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Yes	64%
No	7%
Not sure	29%
Skipped	*

18. Thinking about AI in K-12 education, which of the following comes closer to your review?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
AI in K-12 education has bigger implications than past technological changes, such as computers or the internet	74%
AI in K-12 education is no different from past technological changes, such as computers or the internet	10%
Not sure	16%
Skipped	1%

19. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about AI in K-12 education?

Total Agree Summary

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Teaching responsible use of AI to students should be part of the school's curriculum	78%
AI is hurting students' ability to form real-life relationships	65%
AI is eroding the level of trust between students and teachers	59%
AI is making it harder for me to assess students' level of knowledge	57%
AI is making me a better teacher	32%
AI will eventually reduce the need for teachers in K-12 education	20%





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19. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about AI in K-12 education? (*Continued*)

a. AI is eroding the level of trust between students and teachers

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	36%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	17%
Skipped	2%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	59%
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	23%

b. AI is hurting students' ability to form real-life relationships

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	31%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	16%
Skipped	2%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	65%
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	17%

c. Teaching responsible use of AI to students should be part of the school's curriculum

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know	8%
Skipped	1%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	78%
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	14%





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19. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about AI in K-12 education? (Continued)

d. AI will eventually reduce the need for teachers in K-12 education

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	4%
Somewhat agree	16%
Somewhat disagree	21%
Strongly disagree	47%
Don't know	11%
Skipped	1%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>68%</i>

e. AI is making me a better teacher

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	6%
Somewhat agree	25%
Somewhat disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	29%
Don't know	15%
Skipped	2%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>32%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>52%</i>

f. AI is making it harder for me to assess students' level of knowledge

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	13%
Don't know	14%
Skipped	2%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>27%</i>





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20. Overall, do you believe AI has a positive or negative impact on K-12 education?

	2026 K-12 Teachers
Very positive impact	2%
Somewhat positive impact	7%
Mix of positive and negative impact	49%
Somewhat negative impact	20%
Very negative impact	20%
No impact	1%
Skipped	1%
<i>Positive impact (net)</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Negative impact (net)</i>	<i>40%</i>

21. In your own words, what is your single biggest concern about AI in K–12 education?

Open-ended responses provided separately.





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About the Study

These are the findings of an NPR/Ipsos poll conducted April 27 – May 5, 2026, by Ipsos using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a representative probability sample of 545 K-12 teachers who are adults aged 18 or older.

The study was conducted in English. The data were weighted to adjust for gender, age, race and ethnicity, census region, metropolitan status, education, and household income. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2024 American Community Survey (ACS).

- Gender (Male, Female)
- Age (18–29, 30–44, 45-59 and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, 2+ Races, Non-Hispanic)
- Education (Some College or Lower, Bachelors, Advanced Degrees)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under \$25,000, \$25,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$149,999, \$150,000+)

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of K-12 teachers. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.40. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.





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This topline is trended with data from previous NPR/Ipsos polls:

- The May 2023 poll was conducted May 8th to May 12th, 2023, using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. The poll is based on a representative probability sample of 510 K-12 teachers who are adults aged 18 or older. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of K-12 teachers. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.34. More information about this poll can be found [here](#).
- The March 2019 poll was conducted from March 21st to March 25th, 2019, and it included a non-probability opt-in sample of 505 teachers ages 18+. The credibility interval is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents. More information about this poll can be found [here](#).
- The April 2018 poll was conducted from April 6th to April 12th, 2018, and it included a non-probability opt-in sample of 504 teachers ages 18+. The credibility interval is plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents. More information about this poll can be found [here](#).

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About Ipsos

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