

Educator Pulse Survey | The Human-Centric Shift

A BLUEPRINT FOR BETTER LEARNING

The education landscape is undergoing a silent but profound shift. While industry conversation often centers around artificial intelligence and digital transformation, Lakeshore’s recent Educator Pulse Survey reveals a different reality.



The survey included 1,945 educators in K-12 classrooms across all 50 states. The responses of those educators indicate that the primary challenges in schools today are deeply human—with behavioral regulation, emotional well-being and physical space cited as top concerns. Teachers are not asking for more screens; they are asking for environments that foster connection and a sense of calm.

Data was collected from October through November 2025.



TAKEAWAY
Modernization isn’t just about visual appeal—it’s also about creating spaces that enhance learning by addressing today’s number-one challenge: **Student Behavior**.

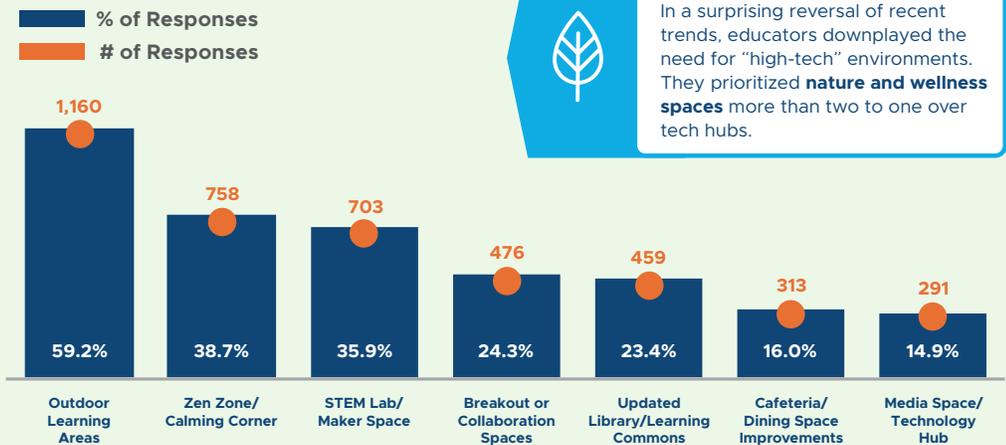
DESIRED SPACES

Respondents chose up to three campus additions they would like to see.

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“We would benefit from having sensory-friendly materials, such as soft seating and visual aids to help with focus and understanding. Clear organization, quiet corners and accessible learning tools would also make the environment more inclusive.”

—Teacher, K-12

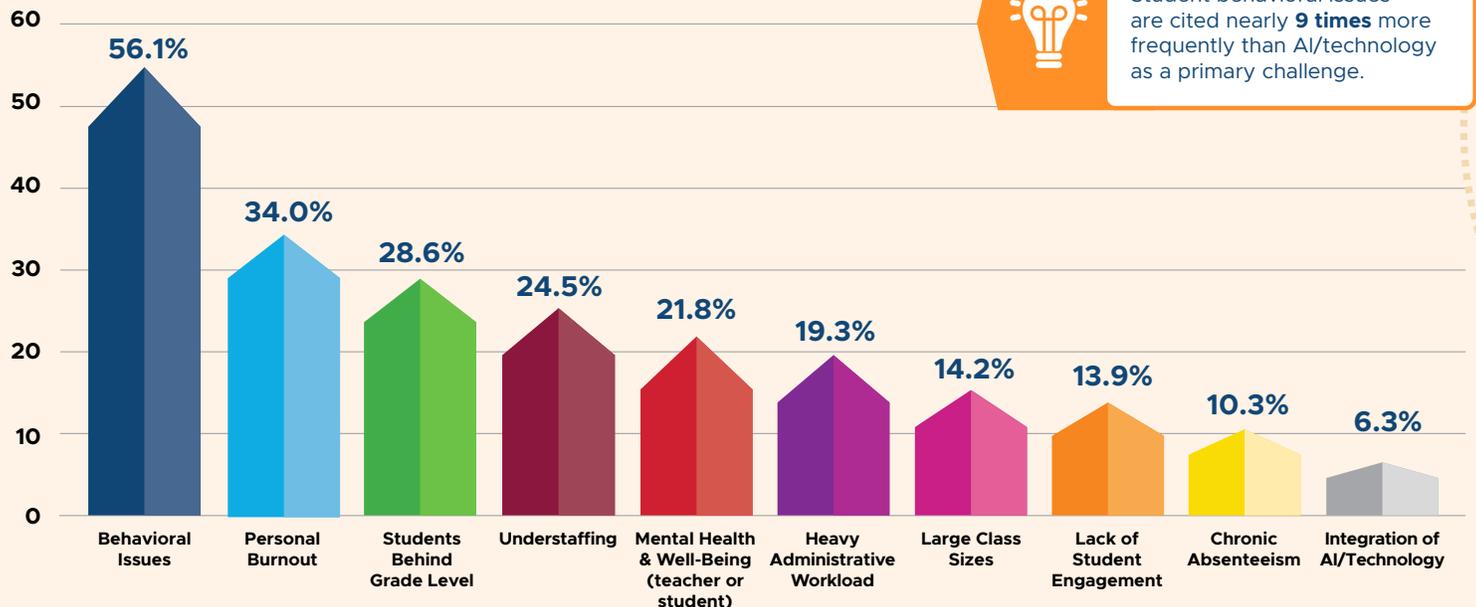




TAKEAWAY
In a surprising reversal of recent trends, educators downplayed the need for “high-tech” environments. They prioritized **nature and wellness spaces** more than two to one over tech hubs.

TOP CHALLENGES

Respondents cited their three biggest areas of concern.





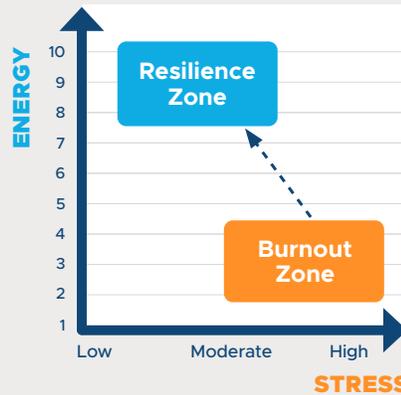
TAKEAWAY
Student behavioral issues are cited nearly **9 times** more frequently than AI/technology as a primary challenge.

LEADERSHIP IMPACT

The greatest sources of stress are “behavioral issues and the workload that gets bigger daily. Every year we have a new curriculum, protocol or policy we have to adapt.”

—Instructor, Elementary Grades

Respondents ranked their energy levels on a scale of 1 to 10 and their stress levels from low to high.



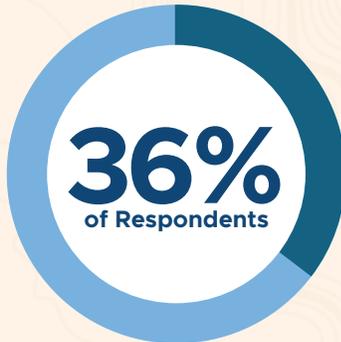
TAKEAWAY

Our analysis reveals a meaningful correlation ($r = 0.40$) between leadership support and teacher energy. Teachers with high support and a quality environment had higher energy levels (in the “Resilience Zone”) than those without (in the “Burnout Zone”).

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

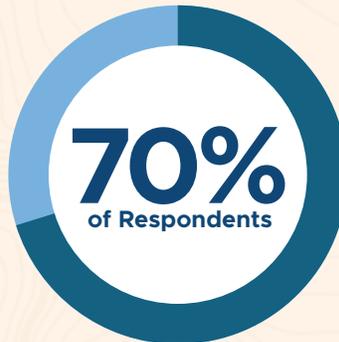
NEW YORK

Biggest pain point:
Understaffing



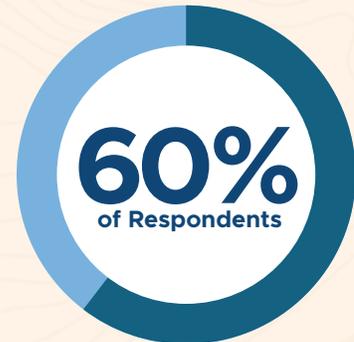
TEXAS

Highest leadership
approval



CALIFORNIA

Strong desire for outdoor
learning areas



RECOMMENDATIONS: A THREE-STEP PLAN FOR 2026

1

ADD OUTDOOR AREAS & ZEN ZONES

Administrators can gain ground by incorporating calming areas and viewing outside spaces as inexpensive, high-value classroom extensions that serve the dual purpose of teaching students while enhancing their well-being.

2

HELP LEADERS SUPPORT TEACHERS

Providing administrators with professional development trainings that focus on support skills can reduce teacher stress and burnout. Our data shows that leadership support directly enhances teacher energy and boosts retention.

3

USE SPACE INTENTIONALLY

Providers should seize opportunities to create space where none existed before. Utilize vertical storage, incorporate small learning zones in hallways and classroom corners, and use mobile furniture to flexibly reconfigure spaces throughout the day.