

## **Economic Lessons Hit Hard In the Classroom**

The classroom isn't immune to the effects of the economy. That's one of the core findings from the MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Teachers, Parents and the Economy.

The survey examines the views of teachers, parents and students on education and effects of the economy on families and schools. Learn more about the key findings of the survey.

Key findings include:

- Teachers are less satisfied with their careers. Teacher job satisfaction has fallen by 15 percent since 2009, from 59 percent to 44 percent reporting they are very satisfied, the lowest level in over two decades.
- The effects of the economic downturn are felt widely and deeply in education. Large numbers of teachers report budget cuts (76 percent) and layoffs of teachers, staff and parent/community liaisons (66 percent) in their schools over the last year.
- Parent engagement has increased significantly in the past 25 years but remains a challenge for many schools. Far more students today (64 percent) report that they talk to their parents about school every day compared to 40 percent in 1988. The number of students who say their parents visit their school at least once a month has increased since 1988, from 16 percent to 46 percent today.

“The survey’s findings underscore that education is a shared responsibility, particularly in the face of financial challenges,” said Dennis White, vice president of corporate contributions for MetLife. “Economic prosperity will depend on a new generation well-prepared to learn for a lifetime in order to compete and collaborate in a global economy.

MetLife is proud to add the valuable data in this report to the pool of information policymakers and education leaders can draw upon as they make their decisions.” Access the full report [here](#), along with previous reports in the series.