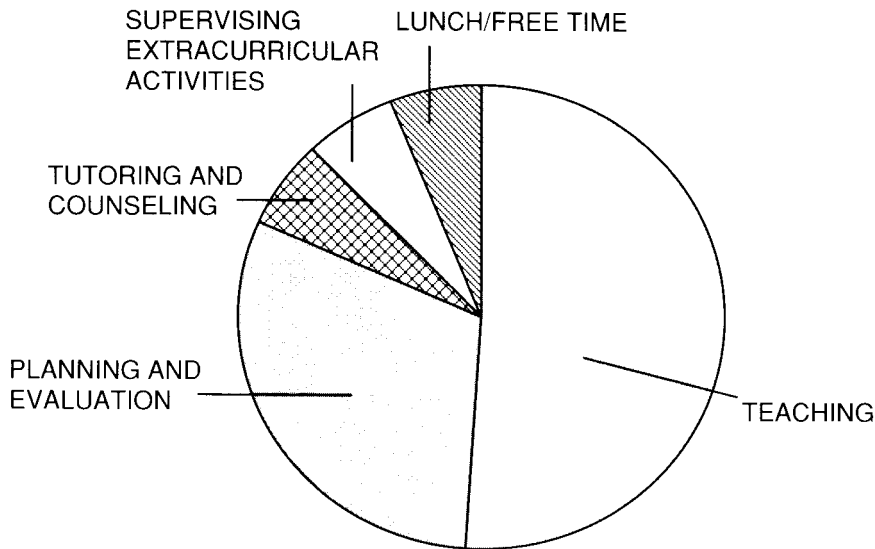


# OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS

## AVERAGE TEACHER WORKWEEK 50 HOURS TOTAL



### What Teachers Do All Week

Public and private elementary- and secondary-school teachers have very similar workweeks, according to an analysis done for the National Center for Education Statistics.

The study found that both public- and private-school teachers spend about 50 hours a week on the job, with about half that time spent in actual teaching. The other 25 hours a week is typically spent on planning and evaluation (about 15 hours), tutoring and counseling (2 to 3 hours), supervising extracurricular activities (2 to 3 hours), and lunch and free time (2 to 3 hours).

The differences found between the private-school and public-school teachers were so minor that the report concludes "it is highly unlikely that these small differences could be responsible for the differences in educational outcomes between private and public schools."

### Teachers Rate Problems in SDA Schools

Time management is the biggest problem for both elementary and secondary teachers in North American SDA schools, according to a 1990 survey by Paul Brantley of Andrews University.

Conference education personnel estimated that 81 percent of teachers suf-

fered from time management problems, while 59 percent of academy teachers and 55 percent of elementary teachers cited this area as a problem for them.

Lack of student spirituality was cited by the next highest number of academy teachers, while conference administrators and elementary teachers agreed that coping with ability levels was next most serious problem.

Other significant problem areas cited by respondents include lack of student spirituality, budgetary problems, physical fitness, isolation/stagnation, discipline, school morale, and parental support.—From "Curriculum and Instruction in Adventist Schools: A Profile of Teacher Concerns," May 1990, p. 10.

### Violence in Schools

At least 71 people have been killed with guns in American schools in the past four academic years, according to a survey released at a hearing of the U.S. Congress House Subcommittee on Crime.

The survey, conducted by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, also found 242 instances in the past four years in which individuals were taken hostage at gunpoint at school.

In a related development, New York City Public Schools reported a dramatic rise in serious crimes against employees

during the first half of the 1989-1990 school year, with the greatest increase coming in elementary and special-education courses, which jumped by 54 percent and 49.2 percent, respectively, according to a report in *Education Week*. School officials said that the findings were a reflection of increased violence among younger children throughout society.

### Teachers Still Lack Decision-making Authority, Survey Shows

Teachers don't feel that they have any more say in key decisions affecting their schools and classrooms than they did two years ago, according to a nationwide survey of teachers released in September by Princeton University Press.

"The Condition of Teaching 1990" reports that 45 percent of teachers are not satisfied with the control they have over their professional lives. In a similar study in 1988, only 25 percent were dissatisfied.

Seventy-one percent of teachers said that they are "not at all" or "slightly involved" in setting student promotion and retention policies. Eighty percent or more of teachers said that they are "not at all" or "slightly involved" in issues such as budget, evaluation of teacher performance, and selecting administrators.

The report also shows that teachers do not rate recent national school reforms very highly. Twenty-eight percent of teachers surveyed gave the movement a "D" or an "F," up from 19 percent in 1988. Only 18 percent gave it an "A" or a "B."

The report is available for \$12 from Princeton University Press, 3175 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

### Kentucky Reforms Education

The state of Kentucky has implemented a massive overhaul of public education. Some of the ideas proposed by the Education Reform Act include the following:

- **Accountability.** Kentucky will shift emphasis from "inputs" to "outputs." Instead of measuring education in terms of the number of minutes each student spends on a given subject, Kentucky will allow individual school systems to design their own curricula. The only catch: The curricula must produce positive results. Each school will be measured by its ability to meet criteria established by a Council on School Performance Standards (standards, yet to be established, will probably include school attendance, drop-out rates, retention rates, and percent-

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age of students who make a successful transition to college, work, or the military).

Schools will be rewarded for success but may be subject to a state takeover if they fail. Youngsters may transfer from "schools in crisis," taking their state funds with them.

- **Performance-based assessment.**

By 1995-1996, Kentucky has set as a goal for all students to be able to (1) use basic communications and mathematics skills, (2) apply core concepts from one discipline to another and to their daily lives, (3) become self-sufficient and capable of contributing to a community, (4) think and solve problems in a variety of situations, (5) connect and integrate new knowledge and performance. The SCPS will translate these goals into measurable terms to tell schools exactly what is expected of them.

- **Non-graded primary schools and preschools.** Beginning in 1992, all K-4 schools in Kentucky will be ungraded. This will allow youngsters to learn at their own pace, without fear of failure or being held back. In addition, school districts will be required to provide half-day preschool programs for all at-risk four-year-olds.

- **Student and family resource centers.** Most middle and high schools will be eligible for student resource centers on site, providing assistance for at-risk students. In addition, most elementary schools will be eligible to establish family resource centers, providing day care, family and employment counseling, and social service referrals.

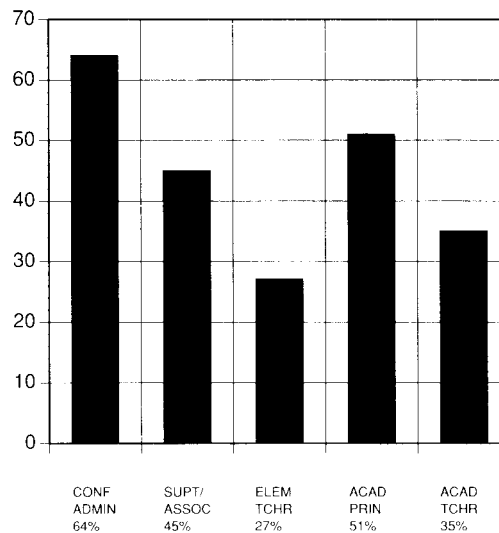
## Creating Home Support for Reading

Four new brochures offer busy parents practical suggestions to promote reading. "Encouraging Young Writers," "Building a Family Library," "Family Storytelling," and "Summertime Reading" are available from Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., 600 Maryland Ave. SW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20024, for 50 cents each; \$15 per 100 brochures of a single title.

## Child Sexual Abuse Largely Unreported

Two-thirds of incidents involving sexual abuse with children go unreported, according to The Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information in Washington, D.C. Statistics show that more than 80 percent of the reported cases involved someone the child knows. Several researchers estimate that from 15 percent to 38 percent of all girls and from 3 percent to 15 percent of all boys are sexually abused before they turn 18.

**FIGURE 1 - PERCENTAGE WHO FEEL THEIR ORGANIZATION ADEQUATELY INVOLVES TEACHERS IN MAKING POLICIES AND SHAPING DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEM**



## Teacher Involvement in Decision-making

According to a 1990 Project Affirmation study by Paul Brantley and Shirley Freed, few Adventist elementary and secondary teachers feel that their organization involves teachers in making policies and shaping decisions that affect them. Two-thirds of administrators felt that teachers were involved, compared with between 27 and 35 percent of teachers (See Figure 1).

## Grim Facts About America's Children

- About one-fourth of all children under age 6 live in poverty.
- Every 26 seconds, a child runs away from home. Every 47 seconds, a child is abused or neglected. Every seven minutes, a child is arrested for a drug offense. Every 36 minutes, a child is killed or injured with a gun. Every day 135,000 children bring their guns to school.
- At 9.7 deaths per 100,000 births, America's infant mortality rate is worse than that of 17 other developed countries. In the District of Columbia, the rate tops 23 percent.
- Only a fraction of the \$660 billion spent by the U.S. on health care in 1990 will go to preventive measures like immunizations. In California, the nation's richest state, only half of the two-year-olds are fully immunized.
- A national survey in 1988 found that

two-thirds of teachers reported "poor health" among children to be a learning problem.

- Head Start serves fully only about 20 percent of the children who are eligible for its programs. But the money thus spent is a bargain; A year of preschool costs an average of \$3,000 per child; a year in prison amounts to \$16,500.

- People who deal with children are more poorly paid, unregulated, and unrespected than other professionals. In some places preschool teachers with five years experience earn only \$12,000, compared with prison guards' salaries of \$30,000. The typical foster parent in Los Angeles earns about 80 cents an hour. Hairdressers are more highly regulated than daycare providers.

- Reports of child abuse have soared from 600,000 in 1979 to 2.4 million in 1989. Drugs are involved in more than two out of three child-abuse cases. In Los Angeles alone, the number of drug-exposed babies entering the foster care system rose 453 percent between 1984 and 1987. Roughly four out of five death-row inmates were abused as children.

- As many as 7.5 million children—12 percent of those under the age of 18—suffer from some type of mental illness. Only one in five children who need therapy receives it, and minority youngsters get the least care. Nationwide, on the average, schools employ only one counselor per 850 students.

- Suicides among those ages 15 to 19

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have almost tripled since 1960, to 1,901 deaths in 1987. About 10 percent of teenage boys and 18 percent of girls try to kill themselves at least once.—Reported in *Time*, October 8, 1990.



## Math Aids Minorities' College Chances

"Black and Hispanic students who take at least one year of high school geometry vastly improve their chances of getting into college and receiving a bachelor's degree, according to a study done by the College Board.

"The central finding of the one-year study by Pelavin and Associates, a Washington [D.C.] research firm, suggests that requiring all students to take geometry is the most effective way to increase the number of minorities in college....

"Math courses were found to have a stronger relationship to college enrollment and completion than courses in laboratory sciences or foreign languages, which the study also examined....

"I think we're looking at something that is more basic than those other courses," Pelavin said. "The logical-thinking skills taught in algebra and geometry are some of the basic skills needed in college."

"Pelavin and [fellow researchers] found that, four years after receiving a high school diploma, 58 percent of whites, 47 percent of blacks and 45 percent of Hispanics were enrolled in college. But among students who had taken at least a year of geometry, the college attendance rates were nearly equal: 83 percent for whites, 82 percent for Hispanics and 80 percent for blacks....

"The researchers put the odds of a

black student finishing college without having taken algebra at 1 in 40, and at less than 1 in 60 for a Hispanic."—*The Washington Post*, September 24, 1990, A6.

## Radiation Hazard from Computer Terminals

Electromagnetic radiation from computer display monitors may pose a significant hazard to health, according to Paul Brodeur, writing in the July 1990 issue of *Macworld*, a computer magazine.

By 1986, Brodeur says, a link had been established between exposure to low-level electromagnetic waves from very high voltage power lines and the development of cancer in children.

The strength of the 2- to 3-milligauss current (a gauss is a unit of strength of a magnetic field) emitted by the power lines was similar to the level of emissions measured at the distance of 12 inches from video display terminals, according to 1982 studies by Dr. Karel Marha of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Tests conducted by Brodeur and *Macworld* editors on a variety of computer monitors showed that at 12 inches electromagnetic radiation ranged from a low of 1.1 milligauss (most were higher than 2) at the front of the screen to a high of 15.86 milligauss at the side of a color-high-resolution monitor (sides and backs of monitors emit the most radiation). They found that only at a distance of 28 inches—arm's length—was it "sensible" to sit at the front of a screen. They recommended staying at least four feet from the sides and back of computer terminals and separating monitors by at least four feet on all sides.

Recent studies of people and laboratory animals support the finding that the

doses measured by Marha may cause cancer (especially brain cancer and leukemia) and harm pregnant women, resulting in miscarriage and fetal damage. Therefore Brodeur also recommends that pregnant women be transferred to jobs not requiring work in front of a computer screen.

For a copy of Paul Brodeur's article, send \$6 to *Macworld* Back Issue Fulfillment, 144 Townsend St., San Francisco, CA 94107.

## Many American Teenagers Have Used Steroids

More than 250,000 adolescents have used steroids illegally and the number who use the potentially dangerous substances is increasing, two reports released by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department conclude.

The studies found that parents, coaches, and school officials may be subtly condoning steroid use by teenagers and called for a national education strategy to combat their use.

The illegal drugs, which are related to the male sex hormone, testosterone, help build muscle and reduce training time. In recent years, steroid use has spread from professional athletes to college and high-school students.

Researchers have found that serious risks can be associated with the use of steroids. Although no scientific consensus exists on the effects of steroids, researchers believe that their use may cause heart disease, sexual and reproductive disorders, liver problems, and overly aggressive behavior.

Reports by the H.H.S. inspector conclude that steroid use appears to be growing, with about 262,000 high school students, or 3 percent of all students, having used steroids illegally. The vast majority of these students are male, and most began their steroid use while involved in a competitive sport or weight training program.

Some experts believe that the problem is more serious than has been currently documented. For example, a study of high school football players in Oregon reported that steroid usage rates tripled between 1987 and 1989, from 1.1 to 3.8 percent. □

