

# Tulsa SEED Study

STUDY OF SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY & UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA-TULSA

The Tulsa SEED Study is led by Principal Investigators Dr. Anna Johnson and Dr. Deborah Phillips at Georgetown University; Dr. Diane Horn at University of Oklahoma - Tulsa; and Dr. Gigi Luk at McGill University.

## Teacher Wellbeing and Job Satisfaction in the 2022-2023 School Year: Ongoing Challenges and Bright Spots

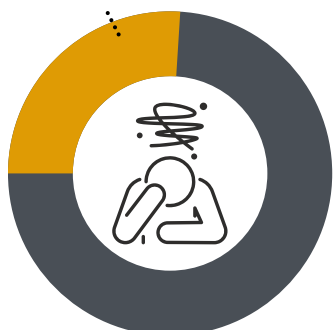
November 2023

**The Tulsa SEED Study** examines the impacts of public pre-K participation on children growing up in families with low incomes in the Tulsa Public School District. We have followed these children, along with their parents and teachers, over the past 7 years. The findings below are based on our **teacher survey from Spring 2023**, when children were in 4th grade.

**Last school year, 4th grade teachers reported ongoing challenges related to mental health and financial stress.**

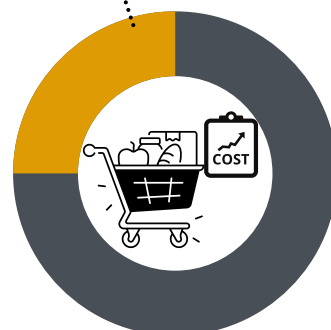
- **26%** of 4th grade teachers reported experiencing **symptoms of depression** for 2 or more weeks over the past year

26% had symptoms of depression for 2+ weeks in the past year



- Similarly, **25%** of 4th grade teachers reported experiencing **food insecurity** over the past year

25% faced food insecurity (running out of food/being unable to afford more) in the past year



**The school year was marked by instability and vacancies on many 4th grade teams. However, 4th grade teachers who stayed in their roles expressed deep commitment to their work.**

- **11% of participating 4th grade classrooms** had a **no permanent lead teacher** in Spring 2023 (due to resignations and unfilled positions), and these classrooms are **not reflected in our survey**
  - **A further 5% of 4th grade teachers** had a **vacancy on their teaching team** at the time of the survey and **did not respond** (likely due to additional **stress** and **instability**)
- Yet, **among 4th grade teachers who stayed** in their roles **and completed the survey**, **89% agreed** that they were **satisfied with being a teacher** at their school and **looked forward to coming to work** most days
  - **92% agreed** that they would **return to TPS** as a teacher the next school year

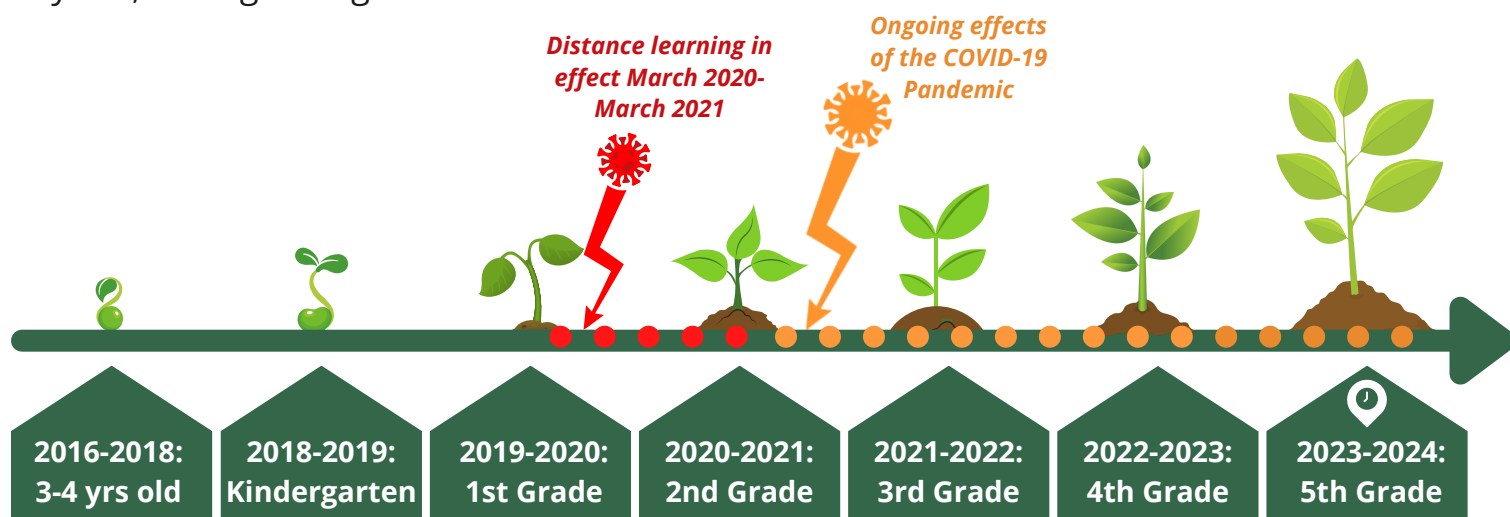


**Many 4th grade teachers who are still teaching in TPS are deeply dedicated to their schools and continue to show up for their students every day. They deserve more mental health, financial, and classroom supports given the increased challenges they are facing.**

# We look forward to learning more from Tulsa 5th grade teachers this school year.

## About Tulsa SEED

The Tulsa SEED Study enrolled children growing up in families with low incomes in the Tulsa Public School District at age 3 or 4 to examine the effects of public pre-K participation. We have followed these children, along with their parents and teachers, annually. Findings reported here are based on a teacher survey from Spring 2023, when children were in 4th grade. We will continue to follow children, families, and teachers this school year and beyond, through 9th grade.



## Suggested citation:

Tulsa SEED Study Team. (2023). Teacher wellbeing and job satisfaction in the 2022-2023 school year: Ongoing challenges and bright spots.

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