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EFP Takeaways

Testing, Teacher Turnover and the Distribution of Teachers Across Grades and Schools

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The Study

One of the arguments for reducing testing in schools is that high-stakes testing lowers teachers' satisfaction with their jobs and could be a major contributor to teacher attrition. However, there is little empirical evidence on the relationship between testing and teacher mobility.

To provide evidence on the issue, the authors use state-wide data from Georgia. In 2010-2011, the state eliminated testing in grades 1 and 2. In 2016-2017, Georgia removed testing for science and social studies in grades 3, 4, 6 and 7.

Findings

Neither change that eliminated high-stakes testing in Georgia had an impact on the likelihood of leaving teaching, moving between districts, changing schools within a district, or changing grades.

For more details:

- View the [full issue](#).
- See the [full article in *Education Finance and Policy*](#).
- [Sign up here to receive future EFP Takeaways](#).
- Summary of: Fuchsman, D., Sass, T. R., and Zamarro, G. (2023). Testing, Teacher Turnover, and the Distribution of Teachers Across Grades and Schools. *Education Finance and Policy*. 18 (4): 654–675.

Implications and Recommendations

While there may be other reasons for reducing testing in public schools, eliminating testing in some grades or subjects within an existing state accountability system are unlikely to yield any improvement in teacher retention.

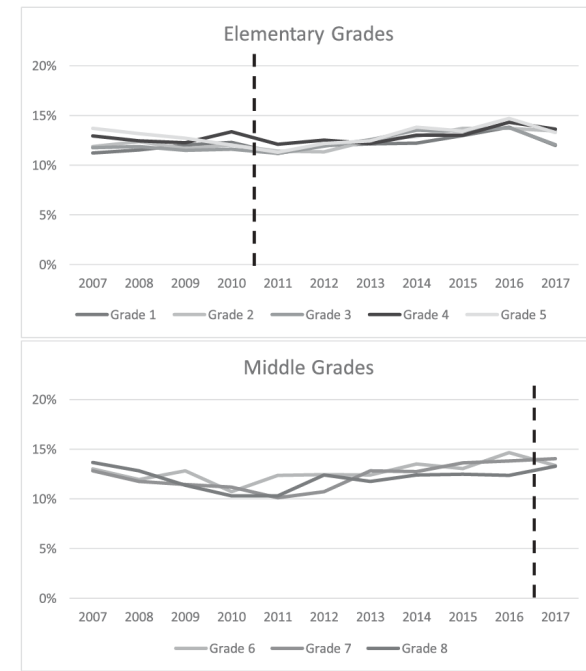


Figure 1a. Percentage of Teachers Leaving the Profession By Grade and Year