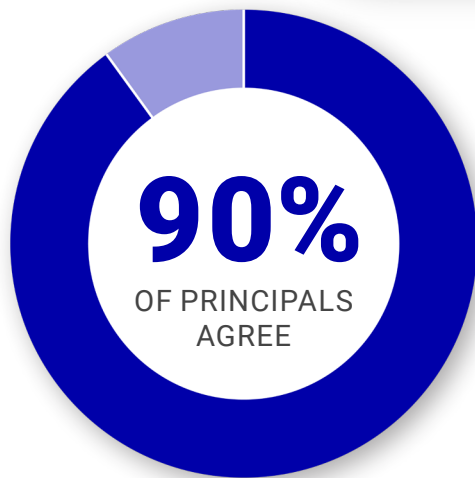unruly
Splats

2022 SURVEY

SCHOOL STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER APPRECIATION

How are schools supporting educators
in the midst of a global pandemic,
massive workforce shifts, and a rising
mental health crisis for children?

We surveyed over 500 school principals and administrators in order to understand
the strategies that schools have employed this year to show appreciation for
educators. The results of the survey offer insights for school leaders on how to
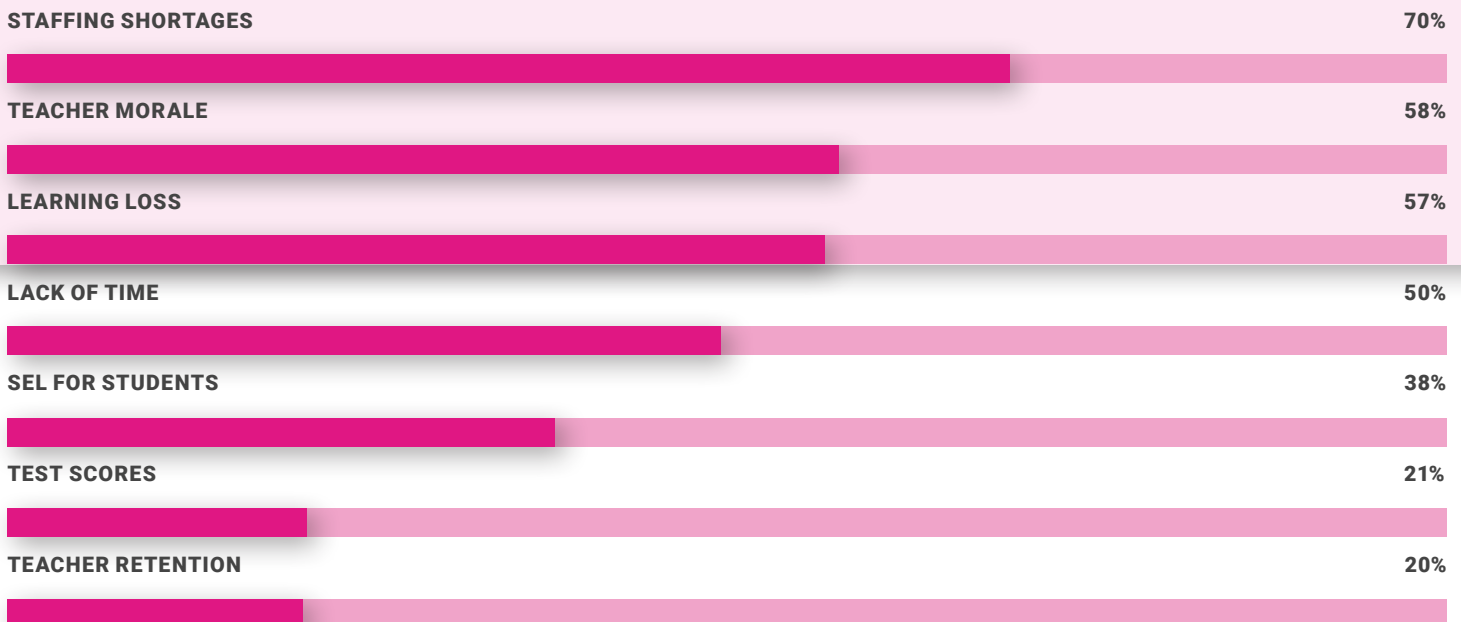ensure teachers receive much needed support during a challenging school year.

TEACHERS ARE MORE STRESSED THAN EVER

90%
OF PRINCIPALS AGREE

An overwhelming majority (90%) of the school administrators we spoke to said their teachers are more stressed than ever before.

What's causing this unprecedented stress? Many factors are at play according to an **EdWeek survey** including concerns about personal health, school closures, state testing requirements, a decline in student engagement, and low pay.

STAFF SHORTAGES AND LOW TEACHER MORALE AMONG TOP CONCERNS FROM SCHOOL LEADERSHIP.

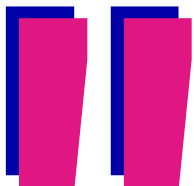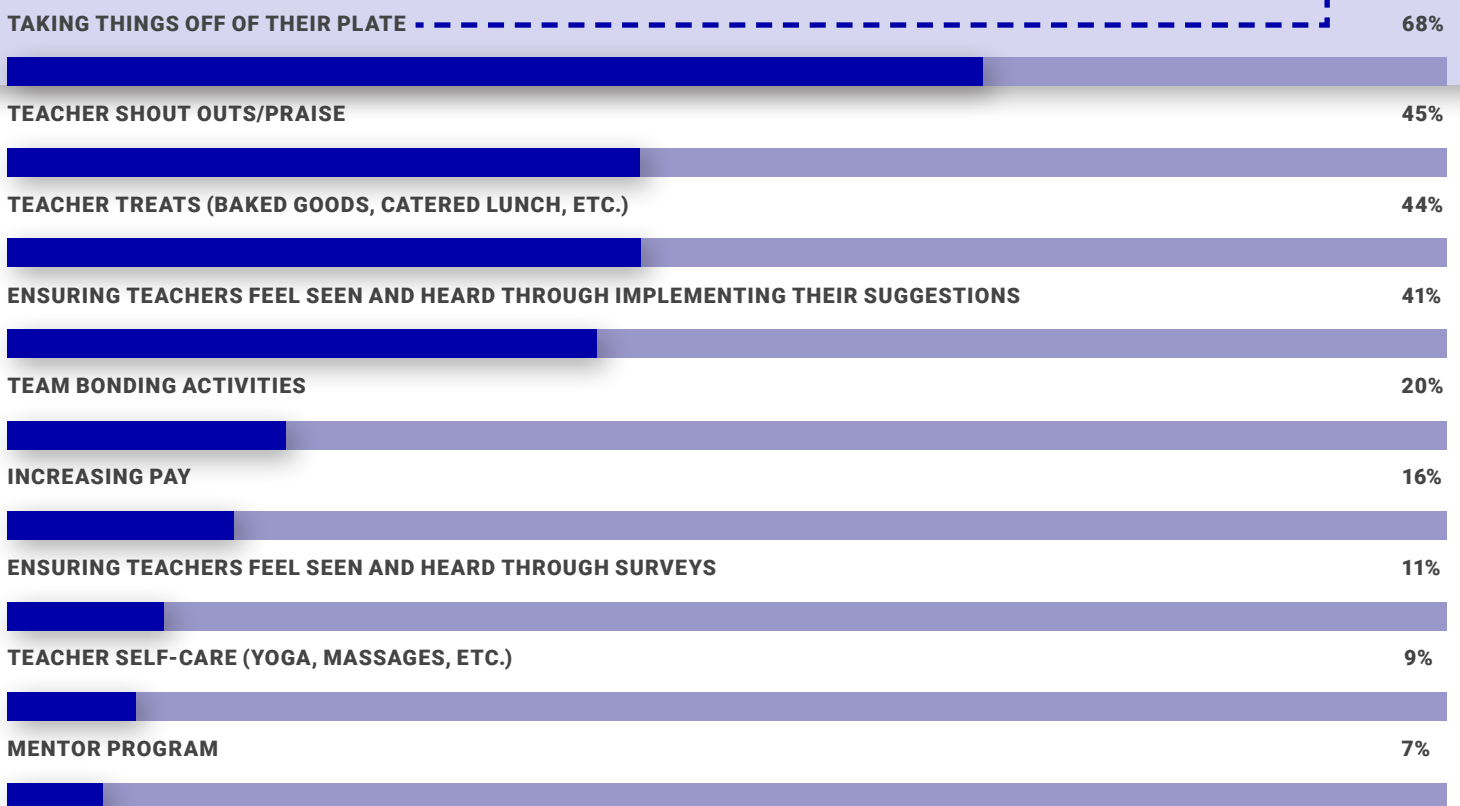| Concern	Percentage
STAFFING SHORTAGES	70%
TEACHER MORALE	58%
LEARNING LOSS	57%
LACK OF TIME	50%
SEL FOR STUDENTS	38%
TEST SCORES	21%
TEACHER RETENTION	20%

We asked principals to share their top concerns for the current school year. The most commonly cited concern was teacher shortages (70%) followed by teacher morale (58%) and learning loss (57%).

When we asked principals for their most effective strategy to boost teacher morale, 68% of them told us the key was "taking things off their plate." This is certainly supported by reports that most teachers have had to take on extra teaching responsibilities since staffing shortages began. Other popular ideas for boosting teacher morale included praising teachers who do good work, offering treats or rewards, and incorporating their recommendations into school policy.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO BOOST TEACHER MORALE

TAKING THINGS OFF OF THEIR PLATE · **68%**

TEACHER SHOUT OUTS/PRAISE **45%**

TEACHER TREATS (BAKED GOODS, CATERED LUNCH, ETC.) **44%**

ENSURING TEACHERS FEEL SEEN AND HEARD THROUGH IMPLEMENTING THEIR SUGGESTIONS **41%**

TEAM BONDING ACTIVITIES **20%**

INCREASING PAY **16%**

ENSURING TEACHERS FEEL SEEN AND HEARD THROUGH SURVEYS **11%**

TEACHER SELF-CARE (YOGA, MASSAGES, ETC.) **9%**
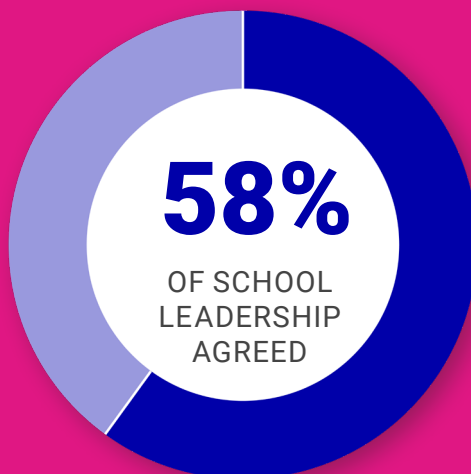
MENTOR PROGRAM **7%**

> We had to adjust our focus to 'what directly impacts student learning and achievement?' So, we asked our team: what meetings help; what could be an email this year? What school systems support; what needs to be put on pause? In an era of pivots and flexibility, we looked to give teachers as much prep time as we could."
>
> **— A MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Our research supports the theory that better technology reduces teacher stress and improves education.

58%
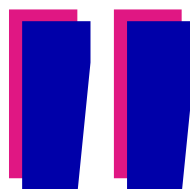OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AGREED

58% of school leadership agreed that using the right technology in the classroom can limit teacher stress.

But technology doesn't only benefit teachers. It also has the potential to improve academic outcomes and increase student engagement. Our research found that 77% of principals believe technology can improve student engagement in the classroom.

The last few years have proven that technology is an essential component of the modern classroom. Strong implementation of educational technology is necessary to see positive results. Principals agree that implementation is key to success.

The results of this survey show the importance of supporting teachers to improve teaching conditions and boost morale so that they are ready to support the growing demands of teaching today. School leaders are taking note and getting creative to ensure teachers feel seen and appreciated.

IN AN OPEN RESPONSE, ONE SURVEY PARTICIPANT PUT IT THIS WAY:

Implementation processes are key. Roll out the technology first with teacher training and practice. Lean into "Why" this program will help them in their classrooms. Get feedback once it has been put into use to adjust any misconceptions. Closely monitor data improvement to celebrate wins."

SURVEY DETAILS

This survey was conducted from January to April 2022 by Unruly Studios and had 557 respondents made up of principals and administrators in the U.S. No respondents were known users of Unruly Splats.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE STATE OF EDUCATION, CHECK OUT OUR RESEARCH ON COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.