

IT'S ABOUT TIME:

A Study of the Impact of Workload
on Teachers and Students



Sample Selection

There were 5,898 full and part-time educators working in Newfoundland and Labrador who were eligible to complete this survey (this did not include personnel working at school board district offices). The minimum required sample size at 99% confidence level was 598 teachers. Considering the potential for less than a perfect return, the researchers conducted a stratified random survey of 1,000 teachers, across each of the 11 school districts. The confidence level is 99% and the confidence interval is plus or minus 2.5%.

Questionnaires were distributed randomly based on the following procedures. The number of teachers in each district was prorated using the following formula: $1,000/5,898 \times (\text{number of teachers in the district})$. For example, in District 1 there were 375 teachers, which meant $1000/5898 \times 375 = 64$ questionnaires for that district. The same approach was used to determine the number of questionnaires that would be sent to each of the schools within the district. For example, in District 1, school number 1 had six teachers, that meant $6/375 \times 64 = 1$. This procedure was repeated for each school in each district. Using this approach with all schools in each of the districts resulted in 302 of 317 schools receiving at least one questionnaire. The 15 schools that did not receive a questionnaire represented a total of 27.5 teaching units.

Within each school, questionnaires were assigned to every sixth person on the school alphabetical staff list. To avoid the 1st, 7th, 13th, etc. person on the list being selected in each school the selection was refined so that the list began at a different place in each of the schools. For example, in School 1 the selection order would be teacher 1, 7, 13, etc.; in School 2, the selection order would be teacher 2, 8, 14 etc. until the appropriate number was selected from each staff.

In the final analysis, 681 completed surveys were returned in time for the quantitative analysis. Following the quantitative data analysis another 14 surveys were returned for a total return rate of 69.5%. The additional 14 surveys were used only for the portion of the research that focused on qualitative data analysis.

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