

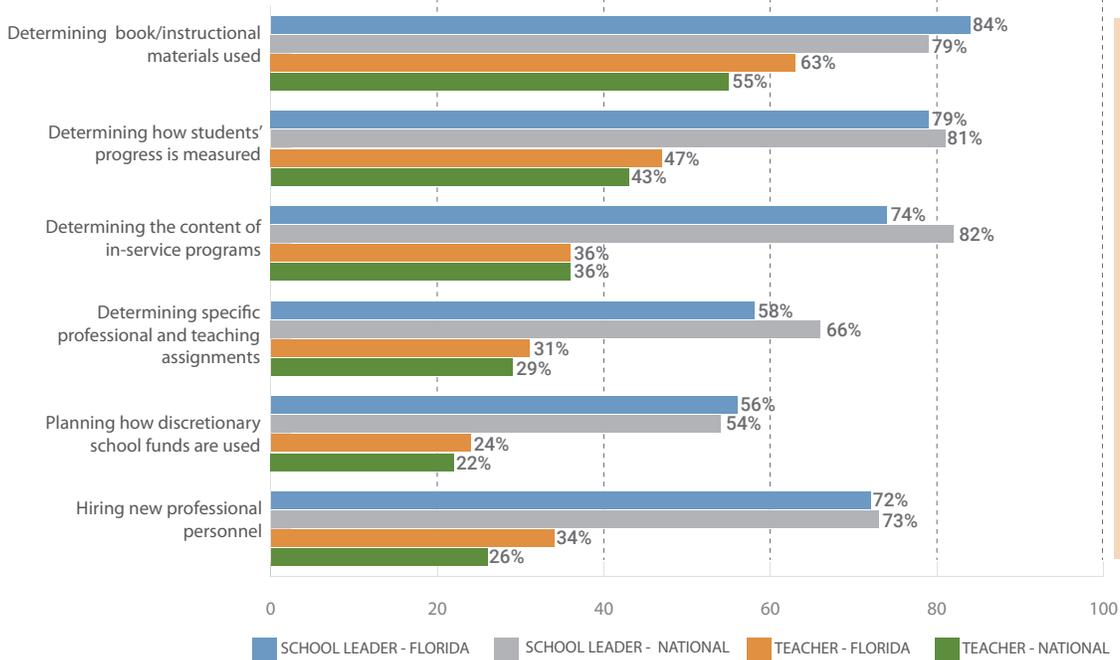


Florida Measure to Learn and Improve Study Teacher Leadership

Educators agree that developing teachers as leaders who extend their formal and informal influence is of critical importance in transforming instruction and student learning. Teacher leadership is reflected in a variety of ways, including working closely with administration in various decision-making processes, facilitation of training, and engaging with policy makers to advocate for other teachers.

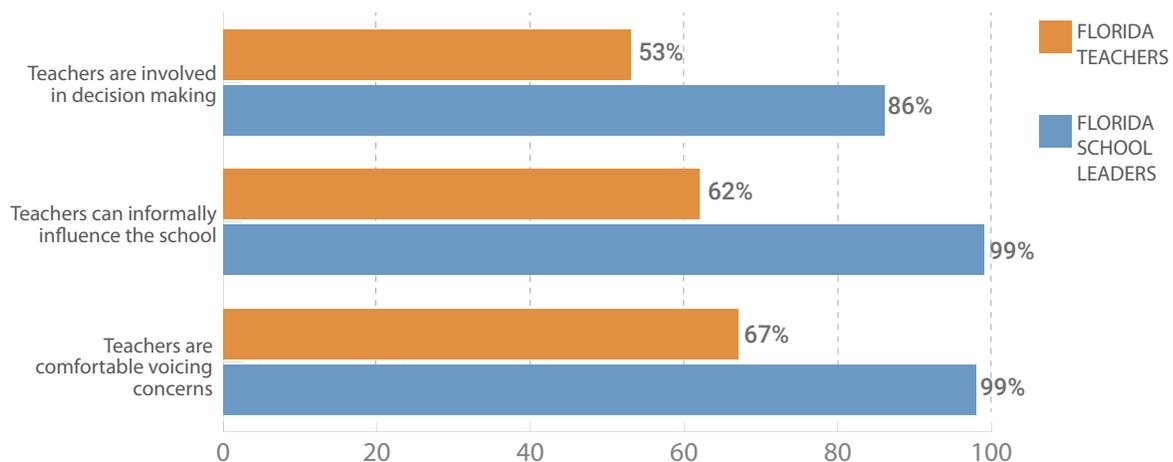
Key Findings

Percentage of teachers and school leaders who agree that teachers have some or a great deal of influence over the following school policies:



- Only 36% of teachers perceive having influence on determining content of professional development sessions.
- Only 53% of Florida teachers surveyed agree that they are involved in decision making at their school.

Percentage of Florida teachers and Florida school leaders who agree with the following statements:



Summary and Implications

Teacher leadership structures empower teachers professionally so they improve their own practice and that of their colleagues in ways that ultimately rich and meaningful learning experiences for students. Currently, school leaders both in Florida and across the nation perceive that teachers play an integral role in leadership activities in their schools, yet teachers indicate that such opportunity is not their current reality.



Questions for Consideration

- How do school leaders identify and promote opportunities for teachers to engage in decision making and leadership?
- What professional learning opportunities exist at the school, district, and state level to develop a network of teacher leaders across Florida?

Recommendations

- Districts should forge partnerships with teacher leadership development organizations to design and offer teacher leadership programs and promote leaders at all levels.
- School leaders should identify and develop teacher leaders to cultivate a culture of distributed leadership within their school.
- School leaders should intentionally engage teachers in decision making activities within schools.
- Schools and districts should provide teachers with continuous professional learning opportunities to grow their skills as informal and formal teacher leaders.

Project Background

The University of Florida Lastinger Center is a national leader in researching, developing, implementing, and scaling innovative solutions that transform teacher practice and student learning. In partnership with the Florida Department of Education, the Lastinger Center has developed a series of briefs that summarizes data collected by the RAND Corporation's American Teacher Panel (ATP) and American School Leader Panel (ASLP) on critical topics in education from teachers' and school leaders' perspectives. Data were collected through the Measure to Learn and Improve (MLI) study, conducted with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The MLI focuses on teacher and administrator perceptions of state standards and related instructional materials, professional development opportunities, teacher evaluation systems, and personalized and digital learning opportunities available for students.