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Report shows more teachers are leaving N.C.

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More teachers than ever are leaving North Carolina schools.

The state board of education released its annual teacher turnover report Wednesday.

But education leaders hope some big changes will turn around the problem.

Teachers across the state will tell you substitutes with just high school diplomas are a common sight teaching and many teacher have troubles paying their bills.

“Oh yeah, no you don't get in it for the money at all, however we would like to be recognized for our effort, our profession, and get paid according to that,” Margie Gibson, a teacher, explained.

“We are dealing with many changes in North Carolina,” another teacher, Marcella Cox, said. “We're facing a teacher shortage and I think it's very important that we as a profession recognize that and develop a plan to keep teachers in the profession.”

New numbers show that's why many are leaving.

Schools are reporting nearly 13-percent of teachers resigned on 2004-2005, which is 1,000 more than last year.

Wake County had a less turnover while Charlotte-Mecklenburg was above average.

So every year, the state must replace more than 11,000 teachers. But there is another problem, the state's colleges are only producing 3,200 new teachers every year and 2,200 of them are staying in the state.

North Carolina Schools Superintendent June Atkinson explained, "Approximately 20-percent of those teachers who left one school went to another school in that county or school in the state. We also know a large number retired, approximately 16-percent."

While many leave for better paying jobs the report also shows that's just a small part of the problem.



"For example teachers are more concerned about a safe environment to work," Howard Lee of the school board said. "They're also more concerned about strong leadership and what's expected, the lack of support from parents and the community. Then we get to pay so I think we as a state board have an obligation to focus on

how we work on these other issues while continuing to put pressure on for pay raises."

In recent weeks, Governor Easley did give teachers a \$750 raise but that still leaves North Carolina teachers below the national average.

Lawmakers and educators are working on a plan to bring in more teachers from out of state.

There's a dispute over licensing young teachers from other states.

Some want to allow teachers without state licensing to teach here to help the shortage but others say that lowers standards.

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