

Nationwide teacher shortage expected to get worse

By WEEK Reporter September 20, 2016

Updated Sep 20, 2016 at 9:09 PM CDT

PEORIA, III. -- The Peoria Public School District has been open about its teacher shortage, as it seeks to fill 57 vacancies. It appears they are not alone in their struggle to find teachers.

According to a recent report, the country is on the edge of a teacher shortage crisis.



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The Learning Policy Institute estimates a shortage of more than 100,000 teachers by 2025.

Reasons include layoffs during the recession, resignations over job frustrations, poor salaries, and poor work conditions.

"What we found with the recession is a lot of times, the student-teacher ratio started to go up, and we started to see funding issues that state legislatures and school districts had to grapple with," says Dr. Dean Cantu from the Department of Teacher Education.

In Peoria, a drop in student enrollment has the district reassigning 14 teachers who had taught at the recently closed contemporary school.