

**SUMMER UI BENEFITS FOR
SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF:
EVIDENCE FROM ILLINOIS AND WHAT IT
MIGHT MEAN FOR MINNESOTA IN SF 32**

Dr. Dave Kamper, Senior State Policy Coordinator

February 16, 2023

Minnesota House Education Finance Committee

**Economic
Policy
Institute**



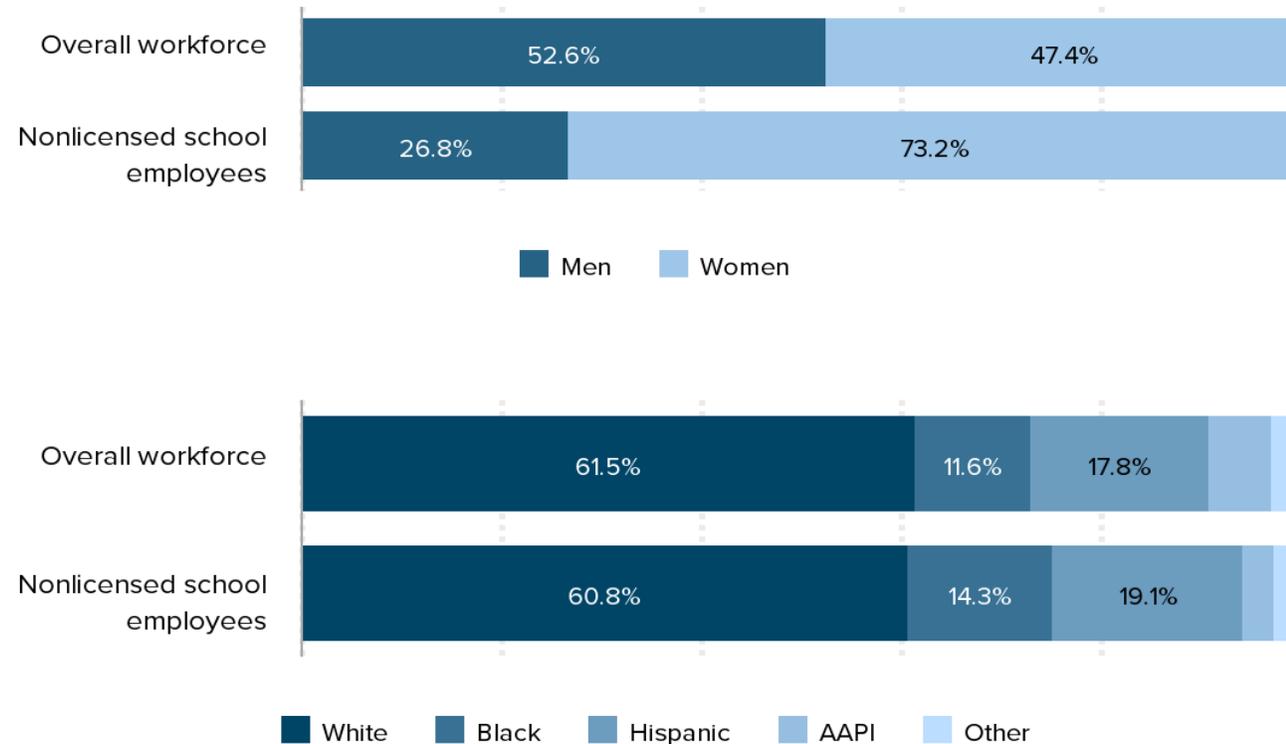
Posted May 12, 2021 at 3:01 pm by **Julia Wolfe** and **Dave Kamper**

Illinois extended unemployment benefits to school workers in the summer, and Minnesota should follow suit



WHO ARE SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF?

Women, Black, and Hispanic workers are disproportionately represented in nonlicensed education occupations



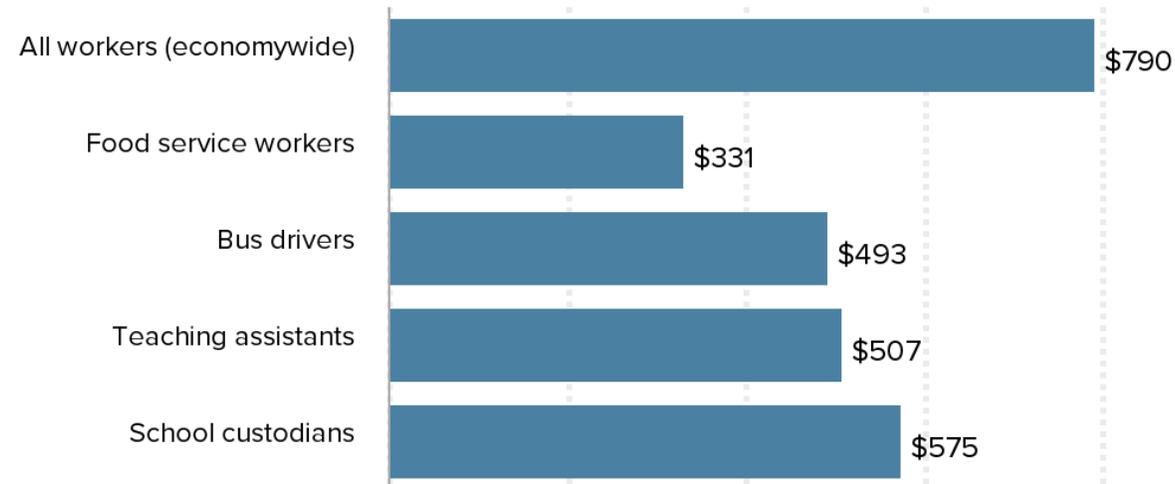
Source: EPI analysis of 2019 ACS microdata.



WHO ARE SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF?

Education support staff are paid very low wages

Weekly median wages of all workers and K–12 public education support workers



Source: Dave Cooper and Sebastian Martinez Hickey, "Raising Pay in Public K-12 Schools Is Critical to Solving Staffing Shortages" <https://www.epi.org/publication/solving-k-12-staffing-shortages/>

Notes: Weekly wages in 2020 dollars.

Source: EPI analysis of 2014–2019 pooled Current Population Survey microdata.



CALCULATING THE EFFECTS OF SUMMER UI FOR NONLICENSED SCHOOL STAFF

- 1) No other states has this now. Illinois did it for 2020 only.
- 2) UI benefits are approximately 50% of regular wages. Workers *cannot* refuse suitable offers of employment to collect UI.

CALCULATING THE EFFECTS OF SUMMER UI FOR NONLICENSED SCHOOL STAFF

- **Recipiency** - *how many workers will receive UI?*
What will the uptake be?
 - *How many nonlicensed school staff work for the school district part or full time in the summer?*
 - *How many have other summer employment?*

EVIDENCE FROM ILLINOIS:

- Enacted summer UI for school support staff in 2020
- The equivalent of **11% of the total workforce** used this benefit (adjusted for job losses in 2020)

**Economic
Policy
Institute**



If that pattern is followed in Minnesota:



- Approximately 62,375 nonlicensed school staff in Minnesota K-12 institutions
- We estimate **75,753 weeks** of unemployment would be claimed in Minnesota (equal to 6800 employees for the whole summer)
- UI compensation is 50% of average weekly earnings

NET COSTS

- Average pay is \$738, 11 weeks of benefits over the summer would be **\$4,058**
- \$738 average weekly wages *times* 50% benefit *times* 75,753 total weeks claimed = ~\$28,000,000

WHY IS THIS NUMBER SO DIFFERENT THAN THE FISCAL NOTE?

- Our numbers are based on a direct comparison to the only real-life example we have before us.
- The fiscal note appears to assume that nearly all of the 62,000+ school support staff will qualify for this benefit for nearly the whole summer. In the five years prior to the pandemic, Minnesota's overall reciprocity rate was between 39-45%.

THANK YOU!

Contact:

dkamper@epi.org (Dave Kamper)

earn@epi.org (EARN Team)

**Economic
Policy
Institute**

