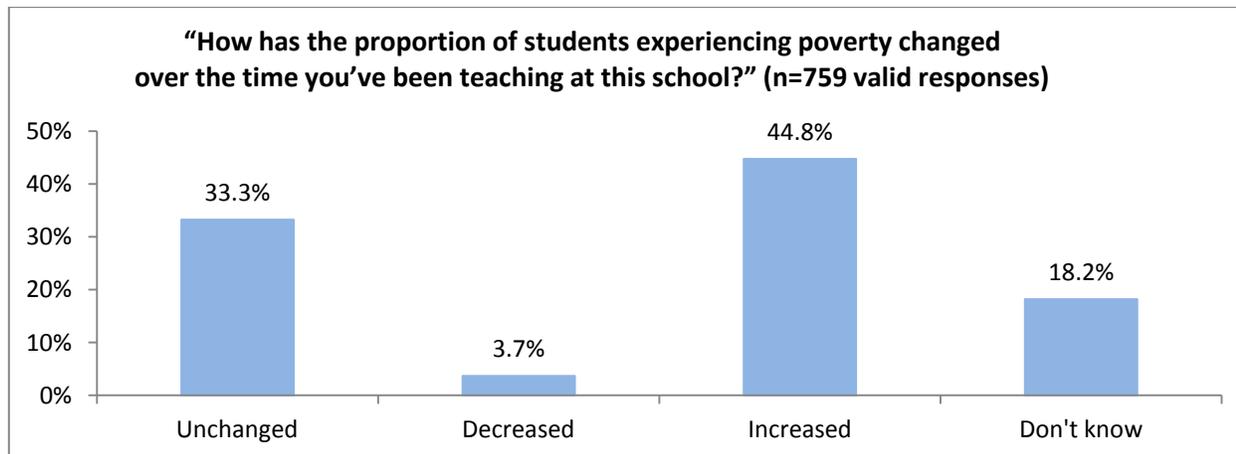


## Research Vignette 1: How family poverty is changing in BC communities



### What we learned from teachers in the survey:

Many teachers observed more students coming to school hungry, without basic resources, describing the economic pressures contributing to poverty in the school community:

- Economic decline in local industries means many families struggling with unemployment.
- Rising real estate prices in urban areas combined with lack of affordable housing is changing the socio-economic mix of families in the school, creating income disparities.
- More parents working at two or more jobs to make ends meet.
- School closures and cutbacks to local services resulting in low-income students losing supports.

### What teachers had to say ... about how family poverty is changing in BC communities:

*Lots of gentrification in our school and so homelessness and having to move away from community is a growing concern. (Metro Vancouver area & West)*

*We are now a feeder school for many schools that have been closed. Their former schools were recognized as needing breakfast and lunch programs, but not currently recognized because we were once a school in a higher economic area. (North Central/Peace River)*

*Our remote community has had many cuts to basic health care and mental health services. Families who can't afford their own car cannot access dentists, optometrists, etc., since we have lost our bus service. Many students have health issues that are not being addressed because of poverty and lack of local services. (North Coast)*

### Discussion questions

- What are the main issues that you see emerge from the research in this vignette?
- How does this manifest in your school's community?

For further information on this topic, see [Chapter 2, Child poverty in BC schools and economic pressures on families](#). For all of the reports on the survey results, see <http://www.bctf.ca/PovertyResearch.aspx>



### ***Poverty and Education survey: A teachers' perspective***

In 2012–13, the BC Teachers' Federation conducted a provincial survey of teachers to document, from a teacher's perspective, the poverty-related needs of students, assess the adequacy of resources to meet these needs, and identify what is most needed to address educational barriers related to poverty.

These research vignettes were developed as one way to share key findings of the survey with teachers in a variety of settings. The 'vignettes' are one-page snapshots of topics addressed in the survey on poverty and education issues in BC public schools. They may contain report text, charts, tables, or quotes from teachers who completed surveys.

Each vignette is intended to encourage reflection and discussion. The vignettes can be read in minutes and might be used as a focus for a 10–30 minute discussion in a workshop or professional development session.

The *Poverty and Education: A teacher's perspective* study results can be found on the BCTF website, and each chapter or the whole report can be read or downloaded. The Poverty and Education research web page can be found online at:

<http://www.bctf.ca/PovertyResearch.aspx>

*This research was conducted by BCTF Research in collaboration with  
the Anti-poverty action group of the Committee for Action on Social Justice.*