



TEACHER

MIDDLE, SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL

JOB DESCRIPTION

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and “hands-on” approaches to help students learn and apply concepts in subjects such as science, mathematics, or English. They utilize “props” or “manipulatives” to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. *Middle school teachers* and *secondary school teachers* help students delve more deeply into subjects introduced in elementary school and expose them to more information about the world. Middle and secondary school teachers specialize in a specific subject, such as English, Spanish, mathematics, history, or biology. They also can teach subjects that are career oriented. *Vocational education teachers*, also referred to as career and technical or career-technology teachers, instruct and train students to work in a wide variety of fields, such as healthcare, business, auto repair, communications, and, increasingly, technology.

EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Teachers must have the ability to inspire trust and confidence, and understand the students’ educational and emotional needs. Teachers must be able to recognize and respond to individual and cultural differences in students and employ different teaching methods that will result in higher student achievement. Essential Skills:

- Creativity
- Organizational skills
- Communication Skills
- Motivate others
- Administrative & recordkeeping
- Patience

EDUCATION & TRAINING

All 50 States and the District of Columbia require public school teachers to be licensed. Licensure is not required for teachers in private schools in most States. Usually licensure is granted by the State Board of Education or a licensure advisory committee. Teachers may be licensed to teach the middle grades (grades 5 through 8); a secondary-education subject area (usually grades 7 through 12); or a special subject, such as reading or music (usually grades kindergarten through 12). The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education currently accredits teacher education programs across the United States. Generally, 4-year colleges require students to wait until their sophomore year before applying for admission to teacher education programs.

SALARIES

Salaries vary depending on work setting, years of experience, specialty and region or state.

Entry level: \$31,704	Kinder, elementary, middle, and	Private school teachers make less
Average: \$46,597	secondary: \$41,400	than \$46,597
Experienced: \$66,240		

EMPLOYMENT & ADVANCEMENT PROSPECTS

Job opportunities for teachers over the next 10 years will vary from good to excellent, depending on the locality, grade level, and subject taught. Most job openings will result from the need to replace the large number of teachers who are expected to retire over the 2004-14 period. Also, many beginning teachers decide to leave teaching after a year or two—especially those employed in poor, urban schools—creating additional job openings for teachers. Shortages of qualified teachers will likely continue, resulting in competition among some localities, with schools luring teachers from other States and districts with bonuses and higher pay.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Counselors
- Librarians
- Social workers
- Education administrators

REFERENCES

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education at <http://www.ncate.org>

Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov 2005-06