

# Teaching K-12

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The current and prospective demand for qualified teachers in the United States continues to be high. This is driven by several factors. First, a large number of current teachers are approaching retirement age. In 2000, a survey from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) showed that 25% of teachers are at least 50 years old and the median age is 44. New teacher turnover also contributes to the demand for new teachers. At the same time, the student enrollment in elementary, middle, and secondary schools continues to rise. The growth rate has slowed but continues on an upward trend. Further, school reform in many communities is calling for class-size reduction which requires more teachers. Finally, many current teachers, especially in math and science, are not specifically qualified in the subject areas they teach.

The need for teachers is especially great in urban and rural areas where there is an immediate need to fill teaching positions in all subject areas. Also, states that are experiencing rapid population growths, including California, Texas, Nevada, North Carolina and Florida, have acute shortages.

## WHAT KINDS OF TEACHERS ARE NEEDED MOST?

### MIT ALUMNUS PERSPECTIVE ON TEACHING:

<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/guide/MITalumTeaching.pdf>

**Math and Science Teachers:** Many school districts are having difficulty hiring qualified math and science (especially chemistry and physics) teachers. In a study of the largest urban school districts in the country, conducted by Recruiting New Teachers (RNT) in 2000, nearly 98% of the districts had an immediate need for science teachers and 95% for math teachers.

**Bilingual Educators:** As the number of non-English-speaking students continues to grow, there is high demand for bilingual teachers, especially in large urban school districts throughout the country and in California, Texas and Florida.

## CRITICAL SKILLS REQUIRED FOR TEACHING:

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Organization and management skills
- Understanding of group dynamics
- Flexibility
- Ability to work with diverse groups
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Sense of humor

### Fields Related to Teaching

Business/Educational Consultant  
Educational Television  
Education Researcher  
Public Lecturer  
Textbook Writing  
Private Tutoring  
Vocational Technical Education  
Educational Sales  
Curriculum Development  
Corporate Training  
Government Educational Policy  
Special Education  
Experiential Teaching

## EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

State-level teacher licensure/certification is required for public school teachers. Licensure is not required for private/independent school teachers.

### Certification Requirements by State:

<http://www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html>

Although the state licensing requirements differ among states, most states require the following:

1. A bachelors degree, and, in some states, a post-baccalaureate or masters degree. For elementary education, usually either a major or minor in education or a Masters in Education.
2. For secondary subjects – either:
  - A degree in the area you wish to teach and completion of an accredited education program that fulfills student teaching and practicum requirements. A state exam may also be required.
  - A degree in the area you wish to teach and demonstrated proficiency in the particular subject area. Proficiency may be demonstrated via state exams. This usually leads to an initial license which allows you to teach. Full licensure would be granted following educator preparation requirements.
3. You may also be required to show proof of basic literacy skills by passing the PRAXIS exam or a state exam, such as the MTEL in Massachusetts.

**The Praxis Series - State-by-State Requirements:** <http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxstate.html>

**Massachusetts Tests for Education License (MTEL):** <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/>

**Licensing Reciprocity:** Many states have reciprocity agreements with other states in which certification from one state is recognized, in some form, in another state. Check each state's education department website to determine reciprocity and subsequent certification requirements.

# Teaching K-12 Continued

## EXPLORATION RESOURCES

### TEACHER TRAINING/TEACHING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

**MIT-Wellesley Teacher Education Program:** <http://education.mit.edu/tep/>

**Teach For America:** A nonprofit organization that recruits primarily recent college graduates of all academic majors to teach for two years in an under-resourced urban or rural public school. Certification not required <http://www.teachforamerica.org/tfa/>

**List of Teaching Opportunities that Do Not Require Certification (from Boston College):**  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/ednotcertified/>

### JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

**Resources for Public School Teaching (from Boston College):** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/resourcesfor/soeresources/>

**Info on Teaching in Private Schools (from Boston College):** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/edprivate>

**Education World Job Search Resources:** [http://www.education-world.com/jobs/job\\_search.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/jobs/job_search.shtml)

**Lists every school in Massachusetts as well as district level profiles:** <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

**Alternative Teaching Opportunities (From Boston College):** <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/careers/careerfields/edalternative/>

### TEACHING INTERNSHIPS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**MIT Educational Studies Program:** Teach high school or middle school in Boston area: <http://esp.mit.edu/web/home/index.html>

**MIT Public Service Center:** <http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/>

**USA Freedom Corp:** [http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/for\\_volunteers/find\\_opps/index.asp](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/for_volunteers/find_opps/index.asp) Use “teach” as a keyword

**United Way:** <http://www.volunteersolutions.org/boston/volunteer/> Use “teach” as the keyword

**Idealist.org:** <http://www.idealist.org/if/idealist/en/AdvancedSearch/Internship/default>

**The Breakthrough Collaborative:**

<http://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/aboutus/index.html>

**Boys and Girls Clubs of America:** <http://www.bgca.org/clubs/>

**Head Start:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsweb/index.jsp>

**Bell – After School and Summer Programs:**

[http://www.bellnational.org/jobs/teachers\\_tutors.htm](http://www.bellnational.org/jobs/teachers_tutors.htm)

**Allens Guide – List of Summer Camps:** <http://www.allensguide.com/>

**Internships in Independent Schools:** <http://careers.nais.org/search.cfm>  
enter “Internship” under Quick Job Search

### JOB LISTINGS

**ABC Teaching Jobs:** <http://www.abcteachingjobs.com/>

**K-12 Jobs:** <http://www.k12jobs.com/>

**National Recruitment Clearing House:** <http://www.recruitingteachers.org/channels/clearinghouse/>

**Massachusetts Dept. of Education job-placement services:** <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mecc>

**Monstertrak.com:** Select “Education, Training and Tutoring” under job category: <http://www.monstertrak.monster.com/>

**Careerbuilder.com:** Enter “Teacher” under keyword: <http://www.careerbuilder.com>

**Teacher Recruitment Website:** <http://www.teachers-teachers.com/>

**Carney Sandoe & Associates:** Recruits teachers for private and independent schools <http://www.carneysandoe.com/>

**National Association of Independent Schools – Careers Page:** <http://www.nais.org/career/>

**Education World Job Mailing List:** <http://www.education-world.com/jobs/>

### SALARY

**Teacher Starting Salary by State:** <http://www.nea.org/student-program/about/state.html>

**Salary.com:** Search can be tailored to a particular geographic area: <http://www.salary.com>

### GENERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

**The Learning Field (from Harvard Graduate School of Education):** [http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~cso/the\\_learning\\_field.htm](http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~cso/the_learning_field.htm)

**Advice for First-Year Teachers:** Education World Article [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_admin/admin/admin124.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin124.shtml)

**Information on the Charter School Movement:** <http://www.uscharterschools.org>

**The Teacher Support Network:** <http://www.teachersupportnetwork.com>

**Education Resources Information Center (ERIC):** Comprehensive database education literature <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>

### OVERSEAS TEACHING

**World Teach:** Based at Harvard University, sends volunteers to teach in developing countries <http://www.worldteach.org>

**European Council of International Schools.** Placement service for teachers, certification required <http://www.ecis.org/>

**Websites on Teaching English as Second Language:** <http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/esl/bestwebsites.shtml>

**International Schools Services:** <http://www.iss.edu/>

**International Baccalaureate:** <http://www.ibo.org/>

**ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**  
**National Education Association (NEA):**  
<http://www.nea.org>  
**Recruiting New Teachers:**  
<http://www.recruitingteachers.org>  
**National Association of Independent Schools:**  
<http://www.nais.org>  
**State Education Associations:**  
<http://www.megaed.com/stateassociations.htm>  
**United States Department of Education:**  
<http://www.ed.gov>