

Industry 101

K-12

Education is America's second largest industry, and the career tracks are as varied as the students are. Those who enter the education field as professionals tend to have a passion for helping young people, a passion for the subject area they teach, and/or a belief in the transformative power of education.



TRENDS & INDUSTRY INFO

All children in the United States are required to attend school until the age of 16. Nearly one in four Americans are enrolled as students at any time. Types of environments include public, charter, and private schools.

According to the International Association for K-12 Education: "Online learning will hit the mainstream as K-12 education systems leverage technology to increase access to educational opportunities and seek improved equity. Blended learning continues to dramatically change instructional models by providing real-time, data-driven instruction and opening up multiple pathways for students to learn. However, the biggest shift will be driven by education systems moving toward personalization for each student's unique needs, interests, passions and competency-based pathways."

- Mobile Learning
- Cloud Computing
- Programming, Robotics and the Maker Movement
- Neuroscience, Youth Development Research and How Kids Learn Best
- Data Informed Decisions + World-Class Standards
- Managing Change
- Personalized Professional Development

- Student-Centered Environments
- Rethinking Measurements
- New Definitions of Success

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Resume

Your resume is critical. Keep your resume one page, organize information clearly and concisely, make sure the document is formatted consistently and error-free, and ensure it is tailored to the position for which you're applying. Include specific language from the job posting.

Be sure to include:

- Education & Certifications (Acquired or Anticipated)
- Student Teaching or Field Experiences
- Internships
- Part-time Jobs
- Service/Volunteer Work
- Student Organizations
- Leadership

Be sure to highlight:

- Any experience working with children (student teaching, tutoring, camp counseling, etc.)
- Advanced, relevant coursework or class projects

FACTS & STATS

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for elementary, middle, and high school teachers is 6%, which is as fast as the national average. Education careers, however, are highly dependent on education policy and the overall size of the population. The median pay in 2015 for elementary/middle school teachers was \$54,550, and the median pay in 2015 for high school is \$57,200 (BLS, 2015).

Projected Percent Change in Employment, 2014-24

High School Teachers



- Total, all occupations
- High school teachers
- Preschool, primary, secondary, and special education school teachers

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

A Career in K-12

Skills Required

- Lesson planning
- Classroom management
- Organization
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Empathy
- Adaptability
- Patience
- Creativity
- Passion
- Public speaking
- Time management
- Cultural competence
- Able to work with diverse groups of students

Experience

Many education jobs require certification or advanced degrees. Look up specific qualifications for your positions of interest. The majority of opportunities are in the instructing realm. Pathways include:

- [Major in education](#) during undergrad to work as a teacher in public schools right out of undergrad
- After getting your Bachelor's Degree, get your [Masters from UMD](#) or another institution
- Work at a private or charter school that does not require certification (some have certification programs while working, ex. KIPP DC)
- Teach English abroad (Peace Corps, TAPIF, EPIK, etc.)
- Participate in a one- or two-year service program (City Year, Teach for America, AmeriCorps, etc.) to see if teaching is for you

Most jobs post directly on the school or school system's site. Apply there to access employment in that school system. Network with professionals in student teaching/internship positions, attend education career fairs, and/or use a teacher recruitment agency for private schools.

Hiring Process and Timelines

Each school and school district conducts hiring slightly differently. The majority of hiring generally happens in late-spring and summer. Those working at schools do not have to give notice until spring, so most school systems do not know their hiring needs until then.

The interview process typically involves:

1. Phone interview with human resources (HR)
2. Resumes sent to specific openings & schools by HR
3. Phone and/or on-site interviews for specific positions by administrator at the school
4. Job offer

This reflects the interview process of many other fields, but on-site interviews may involve a demonstration lesson, which is unique. To succeed in this, be clear on the parameters (timing, context, target audience, number of students, topic). Try using a successful lesson plan you've already used, be thorough (provide a cover sheet with rationale), keep the lesson focused and manageable, practice, keep it simple

(expect little to no setup time & resources), try to localize the lesson, and include self-reflection in your thank-you letter.

SAMPLE JOB TITLES

- Teacher
- Instructor
- Teach Assistant
- Librarian
- Administrator
- Special Education Teacher
- School Operations
- Tutor
- Online Classroom Instructor
- School Counselor
- Paraprofessional
- Bus Driver
- Cafeteria Worker
- Social Worker

UMD CAMPUS RESOURCES

- College of Education
- Even babysitting can serve as a way to test working with kids. Sign up for the [Quick Bucks](#) newsletter to receive a weekly email of part-time temporary jobs

OTHER RESOURCES

- [School District Career Sites](#)
- [National Association of Independent Schools](#)
- [Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools](#)
- Association of American Educators (AAE)
- National Education Association
- ASCD: Professional Learning & Community for Educators

WHERE ARE UMD ALUMS?



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

