



Elementary School Teacher

10

Job Description:

Elementary school teachers work in public and private schools. They instruct children in grades one through six.

Gross Monthly Income:

\$3,100

Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about \$38,000 a year in Utah.

Schedule: Work 9 months out of the year with unpaid summers off. Most work full time. No nights, weekends, or holidays.



Advancement:

Some teachers advance to administrative positions, such as elementary school principal, after earning a master's degree. In some states, teachers can obtain additional certification. Teachers are usually paid more as they complete additional college coursework.

Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree in social work
- ◆ Complete approved teacher training program
- ◆ Complete a student teacher internship
- ◆ Pass a state licensing exam

High

School Courses:

- ◆ Child Development
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Keyboarding
- ◆ Public Speaking
- ◆ Psychology

Work Conditions:

- ◆ Very high level of social interaction. Work with children, parents, and other teachers.
- ◆ Responsible for health and safety of children in their school.
- ◆ Are placed in conflict situations where parents and students might become angry or unpleasant on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Make decisions that affect parents and students on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Travel: Travel to different job sites

Job Outlook:



Very Large

Hours a Week:

40

Leisure Time:

High

Knowledge:

- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Sociology & Anthropology
- ◆ Computers & Electronics
- ◆ Geography

Elementary School Teacher

10



Overview

With each grade they finish, students advance their skills. They go from learning how to add and subtract to learning how to divide. Eventually, they learn how to solve complicated problems using formulas. In some math classes, numbers are hardly used. Instead, letters and symbols take their place. Students also go from paging through picture books to reading complicated essays and books. They also write about their own ideas. What's amazing is that college students, even college professors, could never do these things without learning the skills taught in first grade.

Elementary school teachers usually teach one class of about 25 children. Sometimes they teach combined grades or subjects. Younger elementary children study subjects such as writing, reading, and counting. Older elementary children learn history, math, and English. Elementary school teachers teach social skills to children in all grades.

Teachers use audio-visual aids, computers, and classroom handouts to help children understand subjects. Sometimes they show films or videos or take children on field trips. Teachers develop materials to help children learn problem solving and reasoning. They may teach students one-on-one or in groups. They use educational games and projects to help children grasp new ideas. They organize the desks, bulletin boards, and computer stations to assist learning. They regularly read aloud to students to help them increase their comprehension skills.

Elementary school teachers record student attendance each day. They create daily lesson plans based on school or state requirements. Teachers assign homework and grade papers. They keep records of grades on tests and homework. They evaluate each child's performance and write progress reports for parents. They maintain records for school administrators. They also record information about behavior problems and disciplinary actions.

Teachers meet with parents to discuss student progress or problems. When a child is having a hard time adjusting to school, teachers work with the child to find solutions. Sometimes teachers work with parents or other family members to make sure children complete their work.

Teachers supervise activities on playgrounds and in cafeterias. They develop rules for safety and classroom behavior and make sure children follow them.

Some elementary school teachers teach subjects such as art or music. Art teachers lead art projects, get supplies, and help children develop art skills. Music teachers lead singing groups and teach music skills. Sometimes they lead bands. Other teachers teach physical education to help children develop physical coordination. Often, these teachers work at several schools during a week. Many teachers coordinate volunteer groups and oversee special projects in addition to their regular duties.

Teachers meet regularly with other staff members to discuss school issues. They work with parent volunteers in the classroom. Teachers also attend in-service trainings to update their skills.

Pathway:
***Family & Consumer
Science***