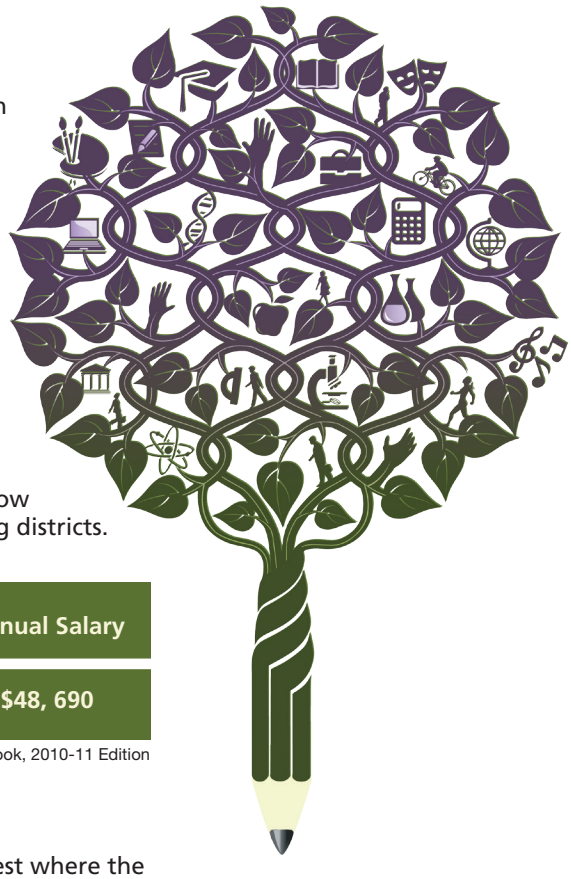
Will there be a teaching job for ME?

The short answer, yes!



The demand for K-12 teachers is ongoing and growing, with a projected 13% growth in teaching positions through 2018.[1] Currently, too few licensed teachers are in the job market to fill the growing needs of the nation's 95,000-plus schools. More than half of thenation's 3.2 million teachers and principals will retire very soon, creating positions for up to 1 million new teachers within the next four years. "Teaching is going to be a booming profession in the years ahead – with school districts nationwide making up to 200,000 new, first-time hires annually," said Education Secretary Arne Duncan.[2]

How much will I earn?

The average salary for a teacher is competitive and fluctuates based primarily on location, but sometimes also on the basis of grade level and subject. Teachers who hold the master's degree typically receive higher pay than those with the bachelor's degree only, and years of experience also contribute to higher salaries. The chart below shows annual salary for K-12 teachers as well as salary ranges in low- and high-paying districts.

	Low-Paying Districts	High-Paying Districts	Average Annual Salary
Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and Secondary	$28, 590 - $33, 070	$67, 490 - $76, 100	$43, 580 - $48, 690

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2009). Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition

Will I need to relocate in order to find a job?

Teachers are needed everywhere, though the demand is greater in the South and West where the population is growing. Teachers who are willing to relocate to high-need states or to hard-to-staff schools in urban and rural settings will have an advantage in finding a job.[3]

What kind of teachers are in highest demand?

High-demand fields such as math, science, Special Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) offer the best opportunities for new teachers.

Math and Science: Data suggest that schools will need to recruit more than 280,000 new math and science teachers over the next 5 years to account for the growing number of retirees and career-changers.[4]

Special Education: The demand for Special Education teachers is increasing much faster than the national average for other professions, with an expected 17% growth through 2018. The highest demand exists for Special Education teachers who are trained in specialty areas such autism or multiple disabilities.[5]

English as a Second Language (ESL): By 2030, 40% of school-aged children will speak a language other than English at home, creating a significant demand for ESL teachers. While the demand for ESL teachers has traditionally been greatest in urban areas and in states populated by large numbers of non-native English speakers, suburban and rural areas are experiencing a heightened need for ESL teachers as families whose native languages differ from English begin to move into communities across the country.[6] With a projected growth of 15% through 2018, the demand for ESL teachers is above the national average for other professions.[7]

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[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2009). Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos318.htm
[2] Duncan, A. (2009, October). Teacher Preparation: Reforming the Uncertain Profession. Speech presented at Columbia Teacher's College, New York, NY.
[3] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2009). Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos318.htm
[4] Business Higher Education (2007). An American Imperative: Transforming the Recruitment, Retention and Renewal of Our Nation's Mathematics and Science Teaching Workforce. Retrieved from http://ww.bhef.com/solutions/americanimperative.asp
[5] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2009). Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos318.htm
[6] Flynn, K., & Hill, J. (2005). Policy Brief: English Language Learners: A Growing Population. Retrieved from http://www.mcrel.org/topics/products/257/
[7] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (2009). Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos318.htm