

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and "hands-on" learning to help students learn and apply concepts in subjects such as science, mathematics, or English. As teachers move away from the traditional repetitive drill approaches and rote memorization, they are using more "props" or "manipulatives" to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. For example, they teach the concepts of numbers or adding and subtracting by playing board games. As children get older, they use more sophisticated materials such as science apparatus, cameras, or computers.

Most **Elementary School Teachers** instruct one class of children in several subjects. In some schools, two or more teachers work as a team and are jointly responsible for a group of students in at least one subject. In other schools, a teacher may teach one special subject—usually music, art, reading, science, arithmetic, or physical education—to a number of classes. **Middle 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** instruct and train students to work in a wide variety of fields, such as health care, business, auto repair, communications, and technology.

Special Education Teachers use various techniques to promote learning. Depending on the disability, teaching methods can include individualized instruction, problem-solving assignments, and small group work. When students need special accommodations for test-taking, special education teachers see that appropriate ones are provided, such as having the questions read orally or lengthening the time allowed to take the test.

Salary Information:

- Elementary, Middle School, Secondary Teacher (Bachelor's Degree)
\$42,270 Entry Salary (Finger Lakes Region, NYS Department of Labor, 2007)
\$41,920 - \$45,920 Average Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007)
[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

Transfer Information:

- A Master's degree is required for permanent/professional state teacher certification in NY.

Additional Information:

- NY State Department of Education: www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/
- US Department of Education: www.ed.gov

