

High School Teachers

SOC: 25-2031 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$64,580

Median Salary

17,800

Employment

-2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 10.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.8/10	Investigative	6.6/10
Artistic	7.6/10	Social	9.4/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Patience, Resourcefulness

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

High School Teachers are education professionals who instruct students in grades 9–12, helping them develop **academic knowledge, critical thinking skills, and readiness for college, careers, and civic life**. They specialize in one or more subject areas—such as math, science, English, history, or career and technical education—and play a central role in shaping students during a pivotal stage of personal and intellectual growth.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy teaching adolescents, explaining complex ideas, and making a lasting impact on young people's futures.

What Do High School Teachers Do?

High school teachers plan and deliver instruction aligned with curriculum standards while supporting students' academic and personal development.

Common responsibilities include:

- Planning lessons and instructional activities
- Teaching subject-specific content through lectures, discussions, and projects
- Assessing student learning through tests, assignments, and presentations
- Providing feedback and academic support to students
- Managing classroom behavior and learning environments
- Communicating with parents, counselors, and administrators
- Participating in school meetings, professional development, and extracurricular activities

Subjects and Teaching Areas

High school teachers typically specialize in specific disciplines:

- Mathematics Teachers: Algebra, geometry, calculus, and statistics
- Science Teachers: Biology, chemistry, physics, or environmental science
- English and Language Arts Teachers: Literature, writing, and communication
- Social Studies Teachers: History, government, economics, and geography
- Career and Technical Education Teachers: Skilled trades, technology, or applied subjects
- Special Education Teachers: Support students with diverse learning needs

Skills and Abilities Needed

High school teachers combine subject mastery with instructional and interpersonal skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Certification Pathway

Becoming a high school teacher requires formal education and licensure:

- Bachelor's Degree: In education or a subject area with teacher preparation
- Student Teaching Experience: Supervised classroom practice
- State Teaching License or Certification: Required for public schools
- Subject-Specific Endorsements: Based on teaching field
- Continuing Education: Required to maintain certification and skills

Some teachers pursue a master's degree for advancement or specialization.

Where Do High School Teachers Work?

High school teachers work in a range of educational settings:

- Public High Schools
- Private and Independent Schools
- Charter Schools
- Magnet and Specialized Academies
- Alternative or Online High School Programs

Work schedules typically follow the academic calendar with summers off or used for planning and development.

How Much Do High School Teachers Earn?

Earnings vary by location, education level, and experience:

- Entry-Level Teachers: Earn starting salaries set by district pay scales
- Experienced Teachers: Earn more with tenure, education, and certifications
- Department Chairs or Specialized Roles: May receive additional stipends

Compensation often includes benefits and retirement plans.

Is This Career Difficult?

Teaching high school can be demanding both intellectually and emotionally. Teachers must manage diverse classrooms, meet academic standards, and support students with varying needs and motivations. The challenge lies in balancing instruction, classroom management, and administrative responsibilities while maintaining enthusiasm and effectiveness.

Who Should Consider Becoming a High School Teacher?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy working with teenagers and young adults
- Like explaining ideas and facilitating learning
- Are patient, organized, and adaptable
- Value public service and long-term impact
- Want a structured career with growth opportunities

How to Prepare Early

- Take advanced courses in your subject area
- Develop communication and public speaking skills
- Volunteer or tutor students in academic subjects
- Explore teaching programs or education majors
- Gain classroom exposure through internships or school programs

High school teachers guide students through a critical stage of development, turning knowledge into understanding and potential into opportunity through instruction, mentorship, and lasting educational impact.