

Educational Assistant

Work one on one with the students who need the most help. One year of college gets you into a school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$52,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$38k to \$67k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Elementary and high schools,
special education classrooms, sc...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 English. Volunteer with kids or with people who have disabilities: it is what boards look at.
- 2 College program** 1 to 2 years
A 1-year certificate or 2-year diploma. Names vary: Educational Support, Educational Assistant, Teacher Assistant, Special Needs. All include placements in real classrooms.
- 3 Police record check and first aid** Weeks
Every board requires a vulnerable sector check before you set foot in a school.
- 4 Get on the supply list** Months to 2 years
Almost everyone starts as a casual or supply assistant, called in day by day. This is the waiting part.
- 5 Permanent posting** Varies by board
A named position at one school with set hours. Seniority decides who gets it.

Pros and cons

- + Cheapest fast route into a school board with a pension
- + You see progress in one kid up close
- + School holidays and no evening work
- Casual supply work can last a year or more before a permanent posting
- Physical and emotional risk from students in crisis
- Hours and months are often less than full time

Optional boosts

Applied behaviour analysis training. American Sign Language. Crisis prevention and de-escalation certification. Personal support worker training.

Good to know

Ontario runs on a plan called an Individual Education Plan

Every identified student in Ontario gets an Individual Education Plan, a written document listing their accommodations, goals and supports. Assistants deliver most of what is written in it, but a teacher signs it.

The job has five different names

Educational assistant, education assistant, teacher assistant, teaching assistant, student support worker. Same work, different province or board. Search all of them when you look for postings.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Educational Assistant, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: Special education in schools

Algonquin College

Sheridan College

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/educational-assistant>



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