

Teacher

Elementary or high school. A pension, summers off, and a salary grid that doubles over ten years.

TYPICAL PAY

\$85,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$52k to \$105k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

5 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Public and private schools

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Any path. For high school teaching, focus on the subjects you want to teach.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
For elementary, any subject. For secondary, you need enough courses in two teachable subjects, for example math and physics, or English and history.
- 3 Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)** 1 to 2 years
Ontario requires 2 years. Most other provinces are 1 to 2 years. Includes practicum placements in real classrooms.
- 4 Provincial certification** A few weeks
Register with your provincial regulator, for example the Ontario College of Teachers or the BC Teacher Regulation Branch.
- 5 Supply list, then a contract** Varies
Most new teachers supply-teach first. Time to a permanent contract varies from months to years depending on region and subject.

Pros and cons

- + Pension, benefits and summers off
- + Real impact on real kids
- + Predictable salary progression
- First years can be precarious supply work
- Emotional load and classroom behaviour challenges
- Marking and planning eat evenings

Good to know

Teachers' pensions own things you have heard of

The Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan has owned stakes in airports, the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Cadillac Fairview malls. It manages about \$300 billion.

Ontario's teaching degree (B.Ed) doubled in length in 2015

It went from one year to two, which cut the number of new teachers roughly in half and ended a long-standing glut of graduates.

Optional boosts

French as a second language qualification. Special education additional qualification. Master of Education. Math, physics, chemistry or tech-ed teachables.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Secondary school teachers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Job Bank: Elementary school and kindergarten teachers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Ontario College of Teachers: Requirements
Ontario College of Teachers: Fees and payments

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/teacher>



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