


	Current Number of Workers 2006	Projected Number of Workers 2016	% Change to 2016	Average Annual Openings	 Elementary School Teachers SOC # 25-2021	
Regional	2900	4200	44.80%	195		
Texas	145,450	207,700	42.80%	9405		
Education/ Training Time	Is License Required?	Wage Rate \$/Hr. 2008 Statewide	Percent Female	Average Age	Job Turnover	Why Most Job Openings Occur
Bachelors +	Yes	\$21.26	81.3%	41.2	Low	Growth

JOB DESCRIPTION

Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills.

WHERE DO WORKERS FIND JOBS?

Elementary and Secondary Schools

RELATED COLLEGE PROGRAMS

CIP 131202 Elementary Education and Teaching
 CIP 131206 Teacher Education, Multiple Levels
 (Alternative Certification)

IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

* English Language

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

* Education and Training

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

* Geography

* Mathematics

* Psychology

IMPORTANT SKILLS

CONTENT

* Active Listening

* Reading Comprehension

* Speaking

PROCESS

* Learning Strategies

SOCIAL SKILLS

* Instructing

IMPORTANT ABILITIES

AUDITORY AND SPEECH ABILITIES

* Speech Clarity

* Speech Recognition

IDEA GENERATION AND REASONING ABILITIES

* Deductive Reasoning

* Fluency of Ideas

* Inductive Reasoning

* Problem Sensitivity

VERBAL ABILITIES

* Oral Comprehension

* Oral Expression

* Written Comprehension

* Written Expression

NATURE OF THE WORK: Elementary School Teachers

Teachers act as facilitators or coaches, using interactive discussions and “hands-on” approaches to help students learn and apply concepts in subjects such as science, mathematics, or English. They utilize “props” or “manipulatives” to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought processes. As the children get older, the teachers use more sophisticated materials, such as science apparatus, cameras, or computers.

Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and the world and can affect their later success or failure in school, work, and their personal lives. Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school teachers introduce children to mathematics, language, science, and social studies. They use games, music, artwork, films, books, computers, and other tools to teach basic skills.

Preschool children learn mainly through play and interactive activities. Preschool teachers capitalize on children’s play to further language and vocabulary development (using storytelling, rhyming games, and acting games), improve social skills (having the children work together to build a neighborhood in a sandbox), and introduce scientific and mathematical concepts (showing the children how to balance and count blocks when building a bridge or how to mix colors when painting). Thus, a less structured approach, including small-group lessons, one-on-one instruction, and learning through creative activities such as art, dance, and music, is adopted to teach preschool children. Play and hands-on teaching also are used by kindergarten teachers, but academics begin to take priority in kindergarten classrooms. Letter recognition, phonics, numbers, and awareness of nature and science, introduced at the preschool level, are taught primarily in kindergarten.

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. A small but growing number of teachers instruct multilevel classrooms, with students at several different learning levels.

Computers play an integral role in the education teachers provide. Resources such as educational software and the Internet expose students to a vast range of experiences and promote interactive learning. Through the Internet, students can communicate with other students anywhere in the world, allowing them to share experiences and differing viewpoints. Students also use the Internet for individual research projects and to gather information. Computers are used in other classroom activities as well, from solving math problems to learning English as a second language. Teachers also may use computers to record grades and perform other administrative and clerical duties. They must continually update their skills so that they can instruct and use the latest technology in the classroom.

Teachers often work with students from varied ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds. With growing minority populations in most parts of the country, it is important for teachers to work effectively with a diverse student population.

Teachers design classroom presentations to meet students’ needs and abilities. They also work with students individually. Teachers plan, evaluate, and assign lessons; prepare, administer, and grade tests; listen to oral presentations; and maintain classroom discipline. They observe and evaluate a student’s performance and potential and increasingly are asked to use new assessment methods. Teachers also grade papers, prepare report cards, and meet with parents and school staff to discuss a student’s academic progress or personal problems.

In addition to conducting classroom activities, teachers oversee study halls and homerooms, supervise extracurricular activities, and accompany students on field trips. They may identify students with physical or mental problems and refer the students to the proper authorities. Secondary school teachers occasionally assist students in choosing courses, colleges, and careers. Teachers also participate in education conferences and workshops.

In recent years, site-based management, which allows teachers and parents to participate actively in management decisions regarding school operations, has gained popularity. In many schools, teachers are increasingly involved in making decisions regarding the budget, personnel, textbooks, curriculum design, and teaching methods.