PreK-12 Teacher Occupations

Recent educator legislation

2026
- Educator Salary Increases
- CS/HB 561 authorizes educator preparation institutes to enroll participants while they obtain an eligible status; requires DOE to issue a temporary certificate to an educator whose professional certificate expired without having to demonstrate subject area mastery; and requires the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence to offer professional learning, at no cost, to certified educators to renew or reinstate their certificate

2025
- Educator Salary Increases

2024
- Educator Salary Increases
- CS/SB 7002 waives subject area examination and certification fees for certain ESE and Elementary Education teachers and revises mastery of the general knowledge requirements for educator certification

2023
- Educator Salary Increases
- CS/HB 1035: Additional alternative certification pathway via the Teacher Apprenticeship Program
- CS/CS/CS/HB 1537: Extends temporary teacher certificates from 3 to 5 years

2022
- Educator Salary Increases
- CS/SB 896: Educator Certification Pathways for Veterans (Temporary Certification for 5 years)

2021
- Educator Salary Increases

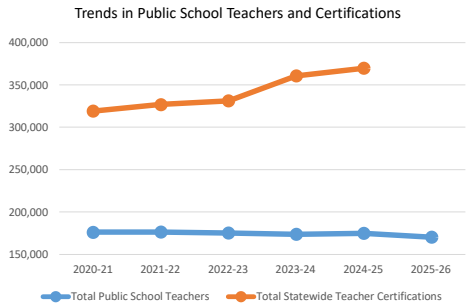
Public school teacher employment and statewide teacher certifications

	Total Public School Teachers	% Growth	Total Teacher Certifications	% Growth
2020-21	176,182	-1.6%	319,064	-3.4%
2021-22	176,342	0.1%	326,788	2.4%
2022-23	175,216	-0.6%	331,068	1.3%
2023-24	173,722	-0.9%	360,541	8.9%
2024-25	174,858	0.7%	369,783	2.6%
2025-26	170,464	-2.5%		

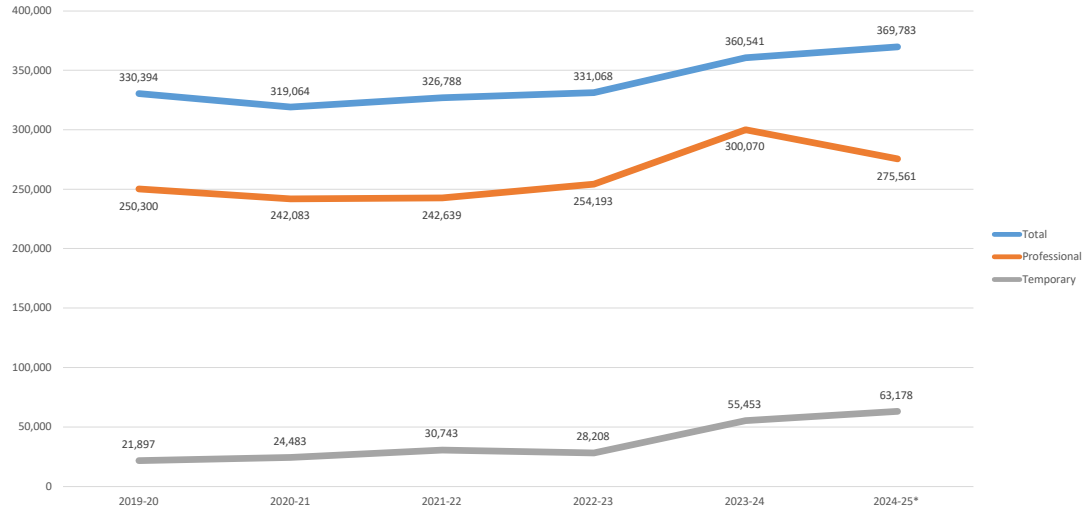
The estimating conferences typically view any change within +/- 1% as noise.

- Public school teacher employment is reflective of many factors, including student enrollment and school district contractual obligations.

- While overall public school teacher employment has declined relative to 2020-21, the total number of teacher certifications has been on the rise in recent years.



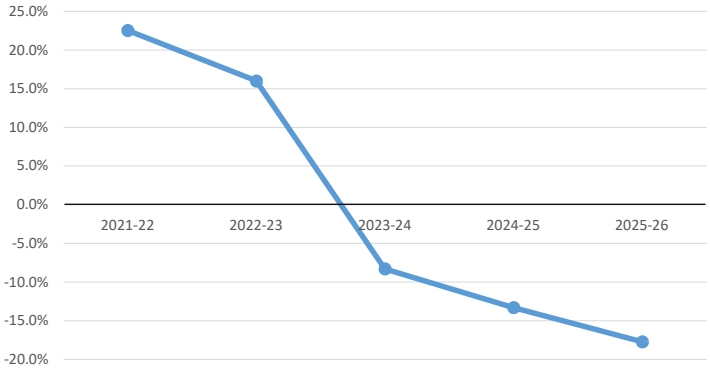
Statewide teacher certifications by type



Note: Professional and temporary certifications do not sum to total; individuals eligible for a temporary certificate must be hired by a school prior to moving to the temporary status.

**2024-25 data is preliminary*

Annual Growth in Public School Subject Area Vacancies



Source: FDOE's annual Identification of High Demand Teacher Needs Area reports and newsroom releases

- Following the last time there was growth in vacancies in 2022-23, there have been three consecutive years of declines in subject area vacancies - a cumulative decline of nearly 40%
- In 2024-25 there were 1.11 vacancies per school, down from 1.28 the prior year

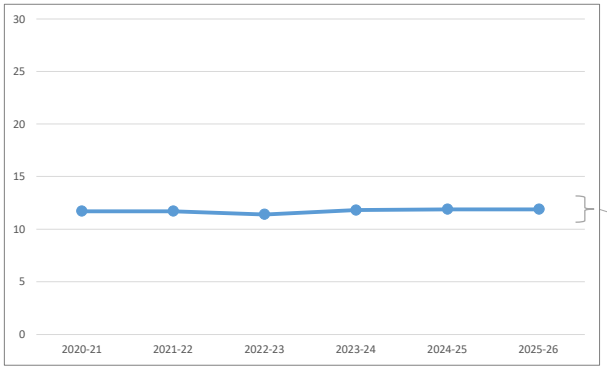
Note: Each of these vacancies does not necessarily represent a teacher vacancy, since one teacher may teach courses in multiple subject areas. For example, a district could report two vacancies by subject area, one in chemistry and one in biology, but fill both needs by hiring one science teacher to cover both subject areas. Therefore, because these counts are designed to identify subject area needs, they will be higher than the actual number of teachers that districts need to hire.

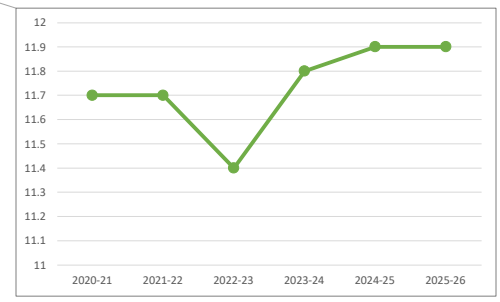
Largest percent of certification area courses taught by a teacher outside of certified area

2024-25				2023-24				2022-23				2021-22			
Certification Areas	Total Number of Courses Reported Statewide	Total Number of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Percentage of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Certification Areas	Total Number of Courses Reported Statewide	Total Number of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Percentage of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Certification Areas	Total Number of Courses Reported Statewide	Total Number of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Percentage of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Certification Areas	Total Number of Courses Reported Statewide	Total Number of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide	Percentage of Courses Taught by Teachers Not Certified in Appropriate Field Reported Statewide
Health	787	237	30.11%	ESOL	3,428	748	21.82%	ESOL	3,260	660	20.25%	ESOL	3,194	603	18.88%
ESOL	3,952	1,046	26.47%	English	37,363	7,095	18.99%	Health	699	141	20.17%	Health	692	120	17.34%
English	37,165	8,857	23.83%	Health	655	120	18.32%	English	32,957	5,932	18.00%	English	33,883	5,318	15.70%
Science - Physical	3,197	757	23.68%	Reading	5,291	947	17.90%	Science-Physical	3,236	544	16.81%	Science-Physical	3,411	527	15.45%
ESE	57,504	11,994	20.86%	ESE	57,201	10,167	17.77%	Gifted	890	146	16.40%	Reading	10,192	1,571	15.41%
Total Areas	567,078	94,038	16.58%	Total Areas	562,027	64,526	11.48%	Total Areas	570,833	59,134	10.36%	Total Areas	587,607	55,405	9.43%

- English, ESOL, and Health were in the top 5 certification area courses taught by a teacher outside of the certified area from 2021-22 through 2024-25

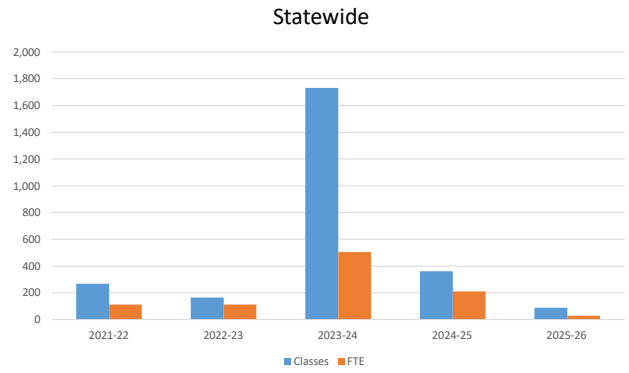
Public school teacher average years' experience





- The average number of years experience reported in public school teacher salary data has remained relatively constant in recent years, hovering within the 11th year of teaching

Classes and FTE Over Class Size Cap



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Classes	268	166	1,732	360	89
FTE	113.55	113.06	504.95	211.47	27.63

- The number of FTE in classes exceeding the class size cap has decreased in recent years, however, 2023-24 saw a significant rise in both classes and FTE exceeding the cap
- This outlier is following the removal of financial penalty for noncompliance (Chapter 2023-104, Laws of Florida)
- Anecdotal stories published through various media sources show that schools are being closed and consolidated in response to declining enrollment; however, there is no formal report on school closures

Measuring statewide teacher employment level at the occupational level

- In recent years there is consistent growth in the number of teaching certifications held in the state of Florida.
- Non-public education settings do not have to require a teacher to be certified.
- In public education settings:
  - When measured as a "teaching outside of certified area" rate, there appear to be consistent subject areas over time that are taught by teachers not certified in that area.*
  - When measured as growth in classes or FTE over the Class Size Average Cap, there were more classes and FTE over the cap in 2023-24 relative to prior years, however this single year outlier occurred following policy to remove the financial penalty.

*1012.42, F.S. Teacher teaching out-of-field.—(1) ASSISTANCE.—Each district school board shall adopt and implement a plan to assist any teacher teaching out-of-field, and priority consideration in professional development activities shall be given to a teacher who is teaching out-of-field. The district school board shall require that the teacher participate in a certification or staff development program designed to provide the teacher with the competencies required for the assigned duties. The board-approved assistance plan must include duties of administrative personnel and other instructional personnel to provide students with instructional services.

LMEC 15 PreK-12 Teacher Occupations

Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education
Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education
Career/Technical Education Teachers, Middle School
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education
Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School
Special Education Teachers, Preschool
Special Education Teachers, Kindergarten and Elementary School
Special Education Teachers, Middle School
Special Education Teachers, Secondary School
Special Education Teachers, All Other
Self-Enrichment Teachers
Substitute Teachers, Short-Term
Teachers and Instructors, All Other

Florida's 69 Certification Subject Areas

Elementary Level Coverages
- Elementary Education (grades K-6)
- Prekindergarten/Primary Education (age 3 through grade 3)
- Preschool Education (birth through age 4)

Middle Level Coverages (grades 5-9)
- Middle Grades English (grades 5-9)
- Middle Grades General Science (grades 5-9)
- Middle Grades Mathematics (grades 5-9)
- Middle Grades Social Science (grades 5-9)

Secondary Level Coverages (grades 6-12)
- Drama (grades 6-12)
- English (grades 6-12)
- Mathematics (grades 6-12)
- Social Science (broad field; grades 6-12)

Science Areas
- Biology (grades 6-12)
- Chemistry (grades 6-12)
- Earth-Space Science (grades 6-12)
- Physics (grades 6-12)

Elementary and Secondary Coverages (grades K-12)
- Art (grades K-12)
- Athletic Coaching (grades K-12)
- Computer Science (grades K-12)
- Dance (grades K-12)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL; grades K-12)
- Health (grades K-12)
- Humanities (grades K-12)
- Music (grades K-12)
- Physical Education (grades K-12)
- Reading (grades K-12)

World Language Areas
- Arabic (grades K-12)
- Chinese (grades K-12)
- Farsi (grades K-12)
- French (grades K-12)
- German (grades K-12)
- Greek (grades K-12)
- Haitian Creole (grades K-12)
- Hebrew (grades K-12)
- Hindi (grades K-12)
- Italian (grades K-12)
- Japanese (grades K-12)
- Latin (grades K-12)
- Portuguese (grades K-12)
- Russian (grades K-12)
- Spanish (grades K-12)
- Turkish (grades K-12)

Exceptional Student Education Areas
- Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12)
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (grades K-12)
- Speech-Language Impaired (grades K-12)
- Visually Impaired (grades K-12)

Professional Service Areas (grades PK-12)
- Educational Media Specialist (grades PK-12)
- School Counseling (grades PK-12)
- School Psychology (grades PK-12)
- School Social Work (grades PK-12)

Administrative Coverages
- Administration of Adult Education (adult)
- Educational Leadership
- School Principal
- Local Director of Career and Technical Education (career and technical)

Academic Endorsements
- American Sign Language
- Athletic Coaching
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Driver Education
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Gifted
- Orientation and Mobility
- Prekindergarten Disabilities
- Reading
- Severe or Profound Disabilities

Degreed Career and Technical Coverages
- Agriculture (grades 6-12)
- Business Education (grades 6-12)
- Engineering and Technology Education (grades 6-12)
- Family and Consumer Science (grades 6-12)
- Marketing (grades 6-12)

Nondegreed Career and Technical Coverages
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs and Curriculum Frameworks

Measuring statewide teacher employment level at the occupational level

