

Occupational Profile: Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School

GENERAL OCCUPATION DESCRIPTION

Teach elementary and preschool school subjects to educationally and physically handicapped students. Include teachers who specialize and work with audibly and visually handicapped students and those who teach basic academic and life processes skills to the mentally impaired.

Source: O*NET online. <http://online.onetcenter.org>

REQUIRED EDUCATION

As shown in the table to right, a high level of education is required for this occupation, with 100% of interviewed employers reportedly requiring a four year college degree or more.

Required Education	
Percent of Employers Requiring HS Diploma or Less	0%
Percent of Employers Requiring 2-Year Degree or Equiv	0%
Percent of Employers Requiring BS Diploma or More	100%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

WAGES¹

Special Education Teacher is considered a medium-wage occupation, with moderate possibility for wage advancement with experience.

Employers in the State of Arizona generally pay less as compared with the overall United States.

Location	Pay Period	2005				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	—	—	—	—	—
	Yearly	\$30,500	\$36,400	\$44,600	\$56,800	\$70,300
Greater Phoenix	Hourly	—	—	—	—	—
	Yearly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Arizona	Hourly	—	—	—	—	—
	Yearly	\$24,300	\$30,100	\$35,300	\$43,100	\$52,400

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison of wages for this occupation reveals Arizona ranks 43rd in terms of median wages.

RANK	Location	Median Wage 2005	
		Hourly	Annual
1	Michigan	N/A	\$59,100
2	Connecticut	N/A	\$58,200
3	California	N/A	\$57,000
4	New York	N/A	\$54,800
5	Rhode Island	N/A	\$54,100
43	ARIZONA	N/A	\$35,300

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

¹ Due to the seasonal nature of the occupation, hourly wages not calculated. Wages for Greater Phoenix unavailable.

EMPLOYMENT

As shown in the table below, this occupation has a projected 40% growth rate over 10 years (between 2003 and 2013) for the Greater Phoenix region. There are an average projected 167 job openings each year, comprised of 167 new jobs and 108 positions vacated by individuals leaving the field (due to retirement, death, career changes, or other reasons).

	10-YEAR CHANGE			AVERAGE ANNUAL		
	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings	Growth	Separations
	2004	2014				
United States						
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	205,100	252,900	23%	9,670	n/a	n/a
Arizona						
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	2,180	3,470	59%	180	n/a	n/a
Greater Phoenix						
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	2,468	3,549	40%	167	108	59

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**N/A is displayed in cases where data is not available or cannot be published because of federal data privacy standards.

Comparison of employment projections for top five regions for Special Education Teacher

As shown in the table to right, a national comparison reveals the State of Arizona ranks 2nd in terms of projected 10-year growth for this occupation (59%).

RANK	Location	Employment		Percent Change
		2004	2014	
1	Nevada	1,180	1,960	66%
2	ARIZONA	2,180	3,470	59%
3	Utah	1,140	1,710	50%
4	Colorado	2,520	3,700	47%
5	Georgia	6,810	9,690	42%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment by Industry

The table below shows the industries that most commonly employ Special Education Teacher, and the proportion of employment accounted for at the national level. As shown, "Local government educational services" are the largest employer for this occupation (88%).

Percent of Employment Nationally by Industry	
Percent	Industry
87.7%	Local government educational services
5.6%	Elementary and secondary schools, private

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Geo-Location Overlay of Employers with 100 or More Employees that Potentially Employ Occupation (n = 204)

