



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Education



Elementary School Teachers, except Special Education

Standard Occupational Code 25-2021

What They Do

Teach students basic academic, social and other formative skills in public or private schools at the elementary level. They teach basic subjects such as math, reading and science to help prepare students for further education.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Social (Helpers) — Like to work with other people. They enjoy teaching, helping and curing people. They are good with words.

Artistic (Creators) — Are artistic and like change. They enjoy using their imagination, creativity, feelings and intuition. They like working in jobs where they are free to set their own schedule.

Work Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Optimism — A tendency to exhibit a positive attitude and positive emotions at work, even under difficult circumstances.

Sincerity — A tendency to be genuine and sincere in interactions with others at work, without concern for personal gain or self-interest.

Perseverance — A tendency to exhibit determination and resolve to perform or complete tasks in the face of difficult circumstances or obstacles at work.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Oral Expression
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- Speech Clarity

Work Activities

- Training and Teaching Others
- Assisting and Caring for Others
- Working with Computers
- Coaching and Developing Others

Education & Training

Elementary school teacher positions require a bachelor’s degree in teaching, childhood education, elementary education or a related program.

Apprenticeship is another option for preparing to be an elementary teacher. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

Elementary school teachers must be licensed by the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs. For more information, visit <http://doe.sd.gov>.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	6
Graphic Literacy	5

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of elementary teachers are:

- Educational Services (Elementary and Secondary Schools)
- Self-employment
- Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
4,606	4,833	227	4.9%	337	\$50,130	\$52,680

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

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Labor Market Information Center
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