

Teacher, Special Education

PANHANDLE

Average Wage
\$18.32

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
15

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
250	350

TEXAS

Average Wage
\$24.88

*Average Annual
Job Openings*
980

<i>Employment in</i>	
<i>2004</i>	<i>2014</i>
12,550	19,350

UNITED STATES

Employment in
2006
216,930

Female 81%
Minority 27%

EMPLOYMENT CODES

OES 31311

O*NET 25-2041.00
*Special Education Teachers,
Preschool, Kindergarten and
Elementary School*

JOB DESCRIPTION

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



SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED

- ◆ Ability to communicate clearly
- ◆ Acceptance of differences in others, patience
- ◆ Ability to motivate students, understanding special needs
- ◆ Creativity to apply different types of teaching methods to reach students who are having difficulty



Special education teachers work with children and youths who have a variety of disabilities. The various types of disabilities delineated in Federal legislation concerning special education programs include specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, hearing impairments, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, visual impairments, autism, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury. Students are classified under one of the categories, and special education teachers are prepared to work with specific groups.

Depending on the disability, teaching methods can include individualized instruction, problem-solving assignments, and group or individual work. Teachers are legally required to help develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each student. The IEP sets personalized goals for each student and is tailored to a student's individual learning style and ability. The program includes a transition plan outlining specific steps to prepare the student for additional schooling or a job. Teachers work closely with parents to inform them of their child's progress and suggest techniques to promote learning at home.

PANHANDLE AREA PUBLIC TRAINING PROVIDERS

Training Provider	Direct Training	Related Training	Education Offering
Amarillo College Amarillo, Dumas, Hereford		√	A.A. (Associate of Arts Degree), General Studies Major-Education Degree Plan
Clarendon College Clarendon, Pampa		√	A.A. (Associate of Arts Degree), Secondary Education Major
Wayland Baptist University Amarillo		√	Teacher Certification (EC-12) Major: Teaching Content with BS, BA, or BM option
West Texas A&M University Canyon	√		Teacher Certification (EC-12) Major: Teaching Content (Special Education) with BS, BA, or BM option
	√		M.Ed. (Master of Education Degree), Special Education Major

For information on public training providers outside of the Panhandle Area, please refer to the Resource Index.

LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

Required: Texas Teacher Certification (may be optional for private school teachers)

HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT LEVELS BY INDUSTRY

Elementary/Secondary Schools	99%
State Government	1%

FOR MORE INFORMATION

American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 879-4400, <http://www.aft.org>

Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), 4483-A Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706, (800) 538-3742, <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, 1525 Wilson Blvd., Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209, (800) 228-3224, <http://www.nbpts.org>

National Education Association, 1201 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 833-4000, <http://www.nea.org>

Texas Education Agency, 1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701-1494, (512) 463-9734, <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701, toll free (877) 275-8782, <http://www.tsta.org>

For additional website sources, please refer to the Resource Index.

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