

## Perceptions of Teaching as a Profession for Higher Education

V.2a, 2019 April 05

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Here are a number of statements that may or may not describe your beliefs about grade 7-12 teaching. You are asked to rate each statement by selecting one of the following options:

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

Choose one of the above five choices that best expresses your feeling about the statement, unless otherwise noted. If you don't understand a statement, leave it blank. If you have no strong opinion, choose Neutral.

### STATEMENTS:

1. Student loan forgiveness programs are available to grade 7-12 math and science teachers.
2. I regularly discuss general career options with students.
3. I regularly discuss grade 7-12 math or science teaching as a career option with students.
4. I am selective about who I encourage to become a grade 7-12 math or science teacher.
5. I have at least one colleague in my department who thinks grade 7-12 math and science teaching is a valuable profession.
6. I have the name and contact information of someone at my institution who can tell students how to get certified as a grade 7-12 math or science teacher.
7. I think grade 7-12 math or science teaching would be an enjoyable career day-to-day.
8. I think grade 7-12 math or science teaching would be a fulfilling career for a STEM major.
9. Other faculty in my department discuss grade 7-12 math or science teaching as a career option with students.
10. Students are encouraged to consider grade 7-12 math or science teaching by other faculty in my department.
11. I discourage our majors from pursuing grade 7-12 math or science teaching.
12. What percentage of STEM students do you think expressed some level of interest when answering the following statement: *"How interested are you in being a middle or high school teacher?"*  
less than 5%; 5-10%; 10-20%; 20-40%; 40-60%; 60-80%; more than 80%
13. I believe that grade 7-12 math or science teaching is a good back-up plan for students when they can't secure other full-time employment.
14. Those who go into grade 7-12 math or science teaching tend to be academically weaker students.
15. Earning a teaching license takes too much time.
16. I would feel comfortable if one of my strongest students went to graduate school.
17. I would feel comfortable if one of my strongest students went into industry.
18. I would feel comfortable if one of my strongest students became a grade 7-12 math or science teacher.
19. I would be happier if my strongest students, even those who have expressed an interest in grade 7-12 math or science teaching, became college professors rather than becoming grade 7-12 teachers.
20. I consider grade 7-12 math or science teaching a STEM career.
21. Please choose **"agree"** to show that you are not a robot.
22. It is beneficial for students to try another career before becoming a grade 7-12 math or science teacher.
23. All grade 7-12 science teachers are scientists.

24. Students in my department who become grade 7-12 math or science teachers are giving up their identity as a scientist or engineer.
25. Teaching pays a lot less than most other careers a student can get with the same degree.
26. Grade 7-12 math or science teachers with a masters degree get paid, on average, better than a math or science non-tenure track faculty member.
27. I would be just as proud to tell people that I am a grade 7-12 math or science teacher as I am to tell them that I am a faculty member at my current institution.
28. I would be willing to be a grade 7-12 math or science teacher for a semester.
29. Grade 7-12 math and science teaching is more stressful on average than other careers.
30. What fraction of all grade 7-12 teachers remain in the profession at year 5? Choose one:  
28%; 41%; 59%; 79%; or 90%.
31. Grade 7-12 teachers have competitive benefits compared to other careers.
32. On average, grade 7-12 teachers can retire before age 60 and not have to work after retirement.
33. What do you think the starting pay would be for a grade 7-12 math or science teacher in a district where students from your department are most likely to be employed? Choose one:  
\$30k or less; about \$40k; about \$50k; about \$60k; or \$70k or more.
34. What do you think the starting pay is for the average graduate with a bachelor's from your department in their first permanent job? Choose one:  
\$30k or less; about \$40k; about \$50k; about \$60k; or \$70k or more.
35. What do you think the mid-career salary is for a grade 7-12 math or science teacher in your local district? Choose one:  
\$50k or less; about \$60k; about \$70k; about \$80k; or \$90k or more.
36. Grade 7-12 teachers typically have strong relationships with their colleagues.
37. Grade 7-12 teachers have minimal interactions with their peers.
38. Grade 7-12 teachers have control over what and how they teach.
39. Classroom management is one of the biggest challenges that grade 7-12 teachers face.
40. The vast majority of teachers feel respected by parents.