A TEACHER'S LIFE BY THE NUMBERS



Santa Cruz County, CA

Teachers in the US **rate their lives better** than all other occupation groups, trailing only physicians.

SALARY

The **average** wage of all **full-time workers** in the county: **$70,148***

Base Salary →

1st Year Teacher with a B.A.
$60,287 - $71,966

15th Year Teacher with a M.A.+
$75,942 - $109,479

Data from 2026-2027

Plus

$1,304 - $5,641
FOR LARGE COMMITMENTS like head coach, debate, or band





$969 - $5,641
FOR SMALL COMMITMENTS like robotics club or yearbook

HOUSING

Median **home** value: **$1,136,188***

Fair Market rent for a **2-bedroom apartment: $4,223***

A salary of **$66,200** can buy a home like this:*



$261,000

*With a 5% down payment, spending 36% of their income on housing

A salary of **$95,000** can buy a home like this: *



$440,000

*With a 20% down payment, spending 36% of their income on housing

RETIREMENT

Most teaching jobs have better retirement benefits than other jobs you can get with the same degree.

59 Teacher average retirement age

4 YEARS EARLIER

63 All careers average retirement age

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*U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Zillow, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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