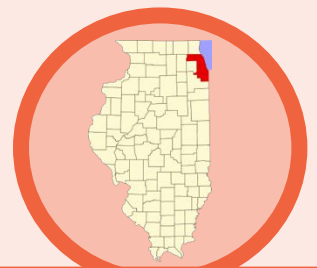


A TEACHER'S LIFE BY THE NUMBERS



Cook County, IL

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

SALARY

Base Salary →

The **average** wage of all **full-time workers** in the county: **\$84,136***



1st Year Teacher with a B.A.

\$62,213 - \$71,693

15th Year Teacher with a M.A.+

\$102,186 - \$140,727

Data from 2026-2027

Plus

\$605 - \$14,436

FOR LARGE COMMITMENTS like head coach, debate, or band



\$156 - \$13,079

FOR SMALL COMMITMENTS like robotics club or yearbook

HOUSING

Median **home** value: **\$326,039***



Fair Market rent for a **2-bedroom apartment**: **\$1,761***



A salary of **\$67,000** can buy a home like this: *



\$287,000

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

A salary of **\$121,400** can buy a home like this: *



\$540,000

*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