

Opening

## Welcome to the Perceptions of Teaching as a Profession (PTaP) survey!

This survey is intended for **student participation** only.  
If you are a faculty member, please contact your colleague for a link to the the faculty-facing survey.

Please proceed to the next page to begin.

## Perceptions of Teaching as a Profession: Year 5

### PTaP - Consent

#### INFORMED CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

Project Title: Get the Facts Out: Changing the Conversation around STEM Teacher Recruitment

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**Purpose and Description:** The purpose of this study is to inform and improve national and local campaigns to get the facts out about the teaching profession. We are conducting research to understand which of the recommended strategies in the Get the Facts Out toolkit are most effective, both in terms of impact on faculty and student perceptions and faculty uptake over time. Our initial work has indicated the possibility that the effectiveness of these strategies may vary by discipline and student culture. To answer these questions, we will monitor student and faculty perceptions of the teaching profession and their interactions with the recommended activities in the toolkit via annual surveys. Additionally, we will visit a diverse set of Study Sites annually to learn about their experiences with the toolkit and the impact on student and faculty perceptions of the profession.

As a research participant, we are asking you to complete a survey or to participate in an interview about the perceptions of teaching as a profession. This data will only be used in a de-identified manner. If your name is being collected now, it is only for the purpose of matching your responses to your future responses, if you choose to participate in a survey or interview at a later date. All names/identifiers will be stripped from the data before the data is analyzed and all data reporting will be done in aggregate.

If you are taking the PTA P survey for extra credit offered in a course, then your name only (not your survey answers) will be reported to the instructor of your course so they can assign you the extra credit.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to participants who participate beyond the time spent to participate. There are also minimal direct benefits to participants beyond the potential of personal satisfaction in improving the perceptions of teaching as a profession; however, your participation will have the indirect benefit of aiding in the understanding of the views of the profession of teaching and hopefully help faculty understand how to better identify and support future teachers.

We will take every precaution to protect your individual information. Data collected from surveys will have personal identifiers stripped before any analysis is completed and only data in aggregate will be reported. All data collected, audio recordings, and any notes taken during interviews will be kept on a password protected computer or if hand written, in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office. Research reports will include aggregate results and will not provide any individually identifiable information but will include discipline and institution identification.

The Colorado Governmental Immunity Act determines and may limit the legal responsibility of the Colorado School of Mines (CSM) if an injury happens because of this study. Claims against CSM must be filed within 180 days of the injury.

Questions about participants' rights may be directed to Human Subjects Team at CSM at [humansubjects@mines.edu](mailto:humansubjects@mines.edu)

Participation is voluntary. You may decide not to participate in this study and if you begin participation you may still decide to stop and withdraw at any time. Your decision will be respected and will not result in loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. This includes any extra credit offered by an instructor for

Please provide your first and last name below; it will only be used to compare results if you take it again during another academic year. **Survey results will only be viewed in a *de-identified* manner, i.e. without your name attached to the responses.**

1. What is your first name?

2. What is your last name?

3. What is your student ID number?

**Following are a number of statements that may or may not describe your beliefs about teaching. You are asked to rate each statement by selecting one of the following options (unless otherwise indicated):**

- 1. Strongly Disagree**
- 2. Disagree**
- 3. Neutral**
- 4. Agree**
- 5. Strongly Agree**

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

4. I know at least one professor in my department who thinks grade 7-12 teaching is a valuable profession.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

5. I know who to talk to at my college if I wanted to become a grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

6. My department would be proud if I became a grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

7. Professors in my department discuss teaching as a career option with students.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

8. Professors in my department encourage students to consider grade 7-12 teaching.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

9. If I told my advisor I wanted to be a grade 7-12 teacher, s/he would encourage me.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

10. If I became a grade 7-12 teacher, I would not be making the most of my degree.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

11. If I were to become a grade 7-12 teacher, I would give up being a scientist.

- Strongly Disagree     Disagree     Neutral     Agree     Strongly Agree

12. Teaching is "scientific" in that you test materials with your students, learn from the results, modify and try again the next year.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

13. I owe it to myself to try a career in my degree field before I try to teach.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

14. I would like a career where I help people.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

15. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good back up plan for me.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

16. Those who go into grade 7-12 teaching tend to be academically weaker students.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

17. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good career choice: In general.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

18. Grade 7-12 teaching is a good career choice: For me.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

19. Grade 7-12 teaching would be fulfilling: In general.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

20. Grade 7-12 teaching would be fulfilling: For me.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

21. I would be proud to tell people that I am a grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

22. What fraction of grade 7-12 teachers remain in the profession at 5 years?

- 28%  
 41%  
 59%  
 79%  
 90%

23. As a grade 7-12 teacher, I would be paid as well as other careers using my degree.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

24. How much do you think a grade 7-12 science teacher's starting pay is in your state?

- <\$30,000  
 ~\$40,000  
 ~\$50,000  
 ~\$60,000  
 >\$70,000

25. What do you think your starting pay would be if you graduate with a **bachelor's** in your current major?

- <\$30,000  
 ~\$40,000  
 ~\$50,000  
 ~\$60,000  
 >\$70,000

26. I know what types of benefits (retirement, time off, health insurance) grade 7-12 teachers receive.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

27. Grade 7-12 teachers have competitive benefits compared to other careers.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

28. Grade 7-12 teachers can retire comfortably and not have to work after retirement.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

29. Grade 7-12 teachers can retire comfortably before age 60.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

30. Grade 7-12 teaching would be intellectually stimulating.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

31. I think I would enjoy grade 7-12 teaching day to day.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

32. I think I would become bored with grade 7-12 teaching.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

33. If I went into grade 7-12 teaching, my peers would be supportive.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree  
 Does Not Matter

34. If I went into grade 7-12 teaching, my family would be supportive.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree  
 Does Not Matter

35. If I went into grade 7-12 teaching, my professors would be supportive.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree  
 Does Not Matter

36. I want to become a grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

For what reasons?

37. I want to become a college teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

For what reasons?

38. Getting a teaching license is a difficult process that takes too much time.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

39. I plan to pursue teacher certification at my institution.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

40. I plan to pursue teacher certification through another route.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

41. If you plan to pursue teacher certification through another route, where will you do it?

42. I would become a grade 7-12 teacher if the pay were equal to my other career options.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

43. I would become a grade 7-12 teacher if the hours were better.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

44. I would become a grade 7-12 teacher if I could retire comfortably before age 62.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

45. I would become a grade 7-12 teacher if I thought teachers were happier in general.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

46. I would pursue teacher certification if I did not have to take extra time to graduate.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

47. I would pursue teacher certification if I did not have to spend extra money.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

48. I know that I could never be a grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree



49. I enjoy working with people.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

50. I enjoy working with teens.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

51. For the most part, other people are friendly.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

52. Please choose "agree" to show that you are not a robot.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

53. I could become a great grade 7-12 teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

54. I might become a grade 7-12 teacher after pursuing another career first.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

55. Grade 7-12 teaching is a stable career choice.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

56. As a grade 7-12 teacher, I could find a job almost anywhere.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

57. Nearly everyone is capable of understanding math and science if they work at it.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

58. Many students just don't have the natural ability to succeed in my subject area.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

59. Almost all students can learn any subject with dedication.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

60. You cannot be a good teacher unless you can entertain.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

61. Very strong students should not waste their skills on teaching, even if they have the motivation to enjoy the profession.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

62. I was inspired by a great grade 7-12 science or math teacher.

- Strongly Disagree    Disagree    Neutral    Agree    Strongly Agree

PTaP Demographics

63. I am currently in my \_\_\_\_\_ year in college.

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- >5th

64. I am currently pursuing

- an undergraduate degree
- a masters degree
- a doctoral degree
- Other (please specify)

65. If you are taking this survey as part of a course, please list the course name here. (i.e. PHYS 112)

- I am not taking this survey as part of a course.
- I am taking this survey as part of:

66. If you are taking this survey as part of a course, which section of this course (or instructor last name) are you in?

67. I am:

- Male
- Female
- Gender Fluid
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

68. I am... (choose all that apply)

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Asian American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

\* 69. I am majoring in:

- Physics (physics teaching, engineering physics, applied physics, ...)
- Chemistry (chemistry teaching, ACS chemistry, biochemistry, ...)
- Math (math teaching, applied math, statistics, ...)
- Computer Science
- Biology (biology teaching, cellular biology, ...)
- Other (please list your primary major first)

\* 70. What is the name of the institution you currently attend?

GFO *Student Experience* Questionnaire

71. How many faculty members do you remember hearing mention grade 7-12 teaching as a career option?

- 0
- 1
- 2-4
- more than 4

72. Have you had a conversation with a faculty member about **becoming** a grade 7-12 teacher?

- No
- Yes

73. Have you heard a faculty member mention grade 7-12 \_\_\_\_? (check all that apply)

- teacher work-life balance
- teacher salaries
- teacher retirement
- teacher retention
- teachers' control over what they teach
- classroom management
- teacher loan forgiveness
- teacher interaction with school administration
- teacher interaction with parents of students
- None of the above

74. Within your department, have you seen any media addressing any of the topics listed in the above question? (check all that apply)

- Presentation: Busting Myths About the Teaching Profession
- Teacher's Life by the Numbers Infographic
- Poster
- Flyer
- Data handouts (handouts with facts and graphs)
- Brochure
- Electronic display
- Email
- Video
- Website
- I have not seen anything related to those topics.
- Other (please specify)

75. How do you think your family feels about teaching as a career option?

- They think it is a great career option.
- They think it is an acceptable career option.
- They have reservations about it as a career option.
- They think it is a poor career option.
- I have no idea.

Please explain.

76. Are you interested in sharing any media related to the topics listed in the above question with your family? This could be in the form of brochures, or flyers, etc.

- No
- Yes

77. Let us know if you have any comments to share with us.

Teaching Profession Facts

**Thank you for your participation! You can learn more about the teaching profession at [www.GettheFactsOut.org](http://www.GettheFactsOut.org).**

**Did you know...**

Teachers rate their lives better than all other occupation groups, trailing only physicians? [1]

-Gallup-Healthways poll of 172,000 U.S. working adults

There are student loan forgiveness programs and scholarships for math and science teachers?

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

You can get a job almost anywhere as a science or math teacher in the US or abroad?

Mid-career teacher salaries typically range between \$62,000 and \$104,000?

Behind every advance in medicine or technology is a teacher who left a lasting impression?

**Teachers are happy with their careers:**

**78%** of grade 7-12 teachers are still teaching in year 5. [2] Compared to other careers this is a very high retention rate, surpassed only by federal government positions.

Intellectual challenge and satisfaction rate higher for teaching careers than private sector STEM careers for physics graduates. [3]

**Salary:**

In Denver, base teacher salaries start at about \$50,000 for academic-year contracts. Average STEM annual starting salaries by major are as follows [4], [5]:

- i. Biology: ~\$40,700
- ii. Chemistry: ~43,600
- iii. Math: ~\$58,000
- iv. Physics: ~\$54,000

The district and state where you teach, experience, level of education, and performance can all significantly impact your salary as a teacher.

Top K-12 teachers in some states and districts can easily earn more than \$150,000, not counting bonuses, additional income for extracurriculars, or summer jobs.

### **Retirement:**

Most US states offer a pension plan for teachers, and the average age for teachers to retire in the US is 59. For example, Colorado teachers have PERA which allows teachers to **retire before age 60 with a pension** of 87.5% HEI. The typical pension is worth two to four times more than the typical private sector 401K plan.

[1] <https://news.gallup.com/poll/161516/teachers-love-lives-struggle-workplace.aspx>

[2] 2015 U.S. Dept. of Ed: Public School Teacher Attrition and Mobility in the First Five Years: Results From the First Through Fifth Waves of the 2007-08 Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study

[3] <http://www.aip.org/statistics>

[4] "Recruiting Trends Re