



Education by the Numbers

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It is not difficult to hear or engage in a debate on the influence that a celebrity, politician, or an athlete have in society. However, outside of the immediate home environment, a teacher is the most influential person in the life of a person. They act as role models and offer guidance to our children. Teachers are the backbone of society. Teachers are the people responsible for social and economic development of a society.

What do we know about teachers in our public schools? According to the most reliable data, there are approximately 3.7 million (3.2 million public and 0.5 million private) full-time and part-time elementary and secondary school teachers in the United States. Teacher characteristics are often associated with other variables related to students' success.

Characteristics of Public-School Teachers

The United States culture has long held that women are more nurturing than men. Historically, this has been the leading factor creating the notion that women are the ideal candidates for teaching. Additionally, prior to the passage of Title IX in 1972, women admitted to higher education institutions were encouraged to enroll in teacher training programs instead of other majors. These factors were effective in creating a female dominated profession. Based on the most recent data, it appears that teaching as a woman's profession remains engrained in the American culture.

Percentage of Public-School Teachers by Instructional Level and Sex

	Female 2000	Female 2018	Female 2021	Male 2000	Male 2018	Male 2021	LGBT
Elementary	88%	89%	75%	12%	11%	21%	13%
Secondary	59%	64%	50%	41%	36%	45%	14%
Total	75%	76%	74%	25%	24%	26%	4.8%

Reference

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