Can Men be Teacher Assistants?

Yes!

Passion Drives the Most Successful Careers. “In fact, if you’re going to be your most successful, you have to be passionate.” —Sally Hogshead, author, Radical Careering

Regardless of Gender Teacher Assistants Must:

- tutor students who need help understanding classroom lessons.
- discuss teaching duties with teacher.
- prepare lesson plan for subjects such as math or science.
- lead classroom exercises.
- correct and grade homework and exams.
- monitor lunchrooms, schoolyard, and hallways.
- help students board and get off school buses.
- assist students in computer labs.
- assist special education students.
- assist at-risk students and their families.
- update student files and health and attendance records.
- prepare student handouts and audiovisual materials.
- organize parent-teacher meetings.
- update skills by taking courses.
- enforce policies and rules.

Idaho Wages

Yearly salary* $14,895 to $33,500
Median Yearly salary $21,462
(Identity Occupation & Wage Report, 2008)
Wages depend on duties performed. Those with teaching responsibilities earn higher wages.
*Usually 9-10 month contracts

To work as a Teacher Assistant, one must:

- have strong interpersonal skills.
- sometimes deal with conflict situations in which children might be angry or rude.
- are responsible for the health and safety of children in their care.
- often work as a part of a team of teachers.
- have good communication skills; and
- be able to work as part of a team.
- either pass an exam, have 32 credits of higher education, or have an associate’s degree.
- The College of Southern Idaho offers courses as well as a technical certificate and an Associate of Applied Science degree for Educational Assistants.

Idaho Employment

5,798 jobs—very large occupation
16%—annual growth
205 jobs—large annual openings
Nationally, men make up 8.5% of the labor force.

Job Outlook

The population of special education students is growing quickly. There are also more students who speak English as a second language. Teacher assistants who speak a second language, such as Spanish, are in great demand. Teacher assistants work mainly with these two groups of students. School budget cuts may increase the number of pupils in each classroom. All these factors increase the need for assistants. In addition, many jobs will open as assistants leave this occupation to find higher paying jobs.

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