

Program Endorsement Brief: 0802.00/Educational Aide (Teacher Assistant) Teacher Assistant

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, January 2020

Summary Analysis

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide Los Angeles/Orange County regional labor market supply and demand data related to one middle-skill occupation: Teacher Assistants (SOC code 25-9041). Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.¹ This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupation.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for teacher assistants in the region. However, typical entry-level hourly wage for this occupation is \$14.20, which is lower than the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage for one adult in the region. **Therefore, the COE cautiously endorses this proposed program.**

Demand:

- Over the next five years, there are projected to be **6,455 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth, replacements, and workers leaving field, **which is more than the 40 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.
- The national-level educational attainment data indicates that 41.1% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.
 - However, it is worth noting that the typical **entry-level hourly wage** for this occupation is \$14.20, **which is lower than the California Family Needs Calculator** hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County and \$17.36 in Orange County)².
 - Experienced workers can expect to earn \$20.77 per hour, which is higher than the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage estimate for both counties.

Supply:

- **Currently, five community colleges** in the region have educational aide programs, conferring an average of **40 awards annually** between 2015 and 2018.

¹ The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

² Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 1/8/20. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for teacher assistants. In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for teacher assistants is projected to increase by 5% through 2023. There will be nearly 6,500 job openings per year through 2023 due to new job growth, replacements, and workers leaving the field.

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties³

Geography	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	2018-2023 Change	2018-2023 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	44,310	46,394	2,084	5%	4,977
Orange	12,806	13,557	751	6%	1,478
Total	57,115	59,951	2,836	5%	6,455

Wages — The typical entry-level hourly wage for teacher assistants throughout the region is \$14.20.⁴ The entry-level wage for this occupation is lower than the California Family Needs Calculator hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$15.04 in Los Angeles County and \$17.36 in Orange County).⁵ Experienced workers can expect to earn \$20.77 per hour. Wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

Job Postings — There were 3,739 online job postings listed for teacher assistants in the region over the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for instructional assistant, instructional aide, assistant teacher, and teacher’s assistant. The top specialized skills were: teaching, child development, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), special education, and child care. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were: Saddleback Valley Unified, Westside Union School District, and William S. Hart Union High School District. Of the 3,739 online job postings, 55% listed a minimum education requirement.

Educational Attainment — The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists some college, no degree as the typical entry-level education for teacher assistants. The national-level educational attainment data indicates that 41.1% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 55% of job postings listing a minimum education requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 76% (1,552) requested a high school diploma, and 24% (501) requested an associate degree.

Community College Supply — Exhibit 2 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Educational Aide (Teacher Assistant) (0802.00). Cumulatively, the five community colleges in the region with educational aide programs have conferred an average of 40 awards annually over the past three years. The college with the most completions was Mt. San Antonio. Over the past 12 months, there was one other related program recommendation request from a regional community college.

³ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁴ Entry-level wage is defined as the twenty-fifth percentile hourly wage. Wages for experienced workers are defined as the seventy-fifth percentile hourly wage.

⁵ Living wage data was pulled from California Family Needs Calculator on 1/8/20. For more information, visit the California Family Needs Calculator website: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>.

Exhibit 2: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2015-2018

TOP Code	Program	College	2015-16 Awards	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0802.00	Educational Aide (Teacher Assistant)	Mt. San Antonio	39	24	28	30
		LA Total	39	24	28	30
		Fullerton	2	2	11	5
		Orange Coast	1	-	-	0
		Santa Ana	4	3	2	3
		Santiago Canyon	-	-	4	1
		OC Total	7	5	17	10
Supply Total/Average		46	29	45	40	

Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 3. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Teacher Assistants (25-9041)	44,310	46,394	2,084	5%	4,977	\$14.15	\$17.27	\$20.68

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Teacher Assistants (25-9041)	12,806	13,557	751	6%	1,478	\$14.40	\$17.60	\$21.08

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)
Teacher Assistants (25-9041)	57,115	59,951	2,836	5%	6,455	\$14.20	\$17.35	\$20.77

Appendix B: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (EMSI)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- California Family Needs Calculator, Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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January 2020

