

Seven good reasons to become a high school physics teacher:

IMPACT

Teaching physics will allow you to help some of our most able high school students learn how to solve problems and think critically. You can play an important role in students' education and have a positive impact on their lives.

RESPECT

Teaching demands creativity and hard work. Many teachers have the freedom to develop their own course content and instructional methods. As a teacher committed to students and their learning, you'll be recognized for your expertise and positive influence.

FLEXIBILITY

A teacher's work schedule is punctuated with a number of break periods each year. Teaching often provides an extended time for rest and relaxation, special trips, and a variety of exciting professional development opportunities open only to teachers. This is something that few other professions provide.

SATISFACTION

Physics teachers have many "toys," so teaching can be a fun and rewarding profession. You'll spend much of your time

dealing with and teaching interesting natural phenomena often to your school's best students. While the work associated with teaching is at times difficult, satisfaction the effort brings is considered by many to be worth more than money.

SECURITY

High school physics teachers are in demand across the country, and this leads to excellent job security. Teaching certificates issued by Illinois have "reciprocity" with about 40 other states. You can teach almost anywhere in the nation.

LEARNING

Teaching a subject is one of the best ways to learn it. As you teach, you'll learn much about the content of physics in particular and the processes and nature of science in general. This is a rewarding experience that benefits both teacher and students.

INCOME

Teaching even at entry-level can be financially rewarding. The best new physics teachers with Bachelor's degrees typically earn \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year for a nine-month contract. Salaries often rise rapidly. In large cities, and after earning a Master's degree, teachers sometimes make more

than \$100,000 per year as they approach retirement! In addition, there are many job benefits ranging from medical, dental, and life insurance, to tuition reimbursement for graduate courses and great retirement plans.

What are the job prospects for a new high school physics teacher?

In a single word, excellent. Check out details in the United States Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook*.

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

How much do teachers make in my area? What are the benefits? Do school districts offer bonuses?

Use *Salary Wizard* to find out about your financial prospects as an Illinois physics teacher. Check it out at *Salary.com*.

<http://www.salary.com/>

Where can I find out more about teaching high school physics?

Start by talking with your high school physics teacher. Because every teacher and each setting is different, you can get an even wider perspective on high school physics teaching by visiting the ISAAPPT "teach" website.

<http://isaapt.org/teach/>

What does it take to become a good high school physics teacher?

Teaching demands more than just caring about students and knowing one's subject well. Teachers need to know what motivates students, how to diagnose their strengths and weaknesses, and how to create environments in which they can learn.

Altruism – Good teachers are dedicated to their students and their learning. The best physics teachers will educate the whole student.

Interest – In order to teach well, physics teachers should find their subject matter interesting.

Understanding - In addition to knowing physics well, physics teachers need to have a proper understanding of the nature and history of science.

Ability – Good physics teaching requires that physics teachers not only be able to solve textbook problems, but be good experimentalists as well.

Effort – Being a good physics teacher requires hard but rewarding work – from preparing to become a teacher to actually doing the work of teaching.

Do you have what it takes to be among the best and brightest teachers in the nation?

How can I become a high school physics teacher?

To become a high school physics teacher, you'll need to complete a Bachelor's Degree in physics teacher education. This will take about four years. You will study physics, mathematics, and a wide range of other science subjects such as biology, chemistry, earth & space science, and environmental science. You'll take courses in physics teaching methods and professional education. Physics teacher education programs exist throughout the State of Illinois that can help you become the physics teacher you want to be. To learn more about these institutions, visit the Website of the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers at <http://isaapt.org/teach/>.



The ISAAPT is dedicated to advancement of the teaching of physics and the furtherance of appreciation of the role of physics in our culture.

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Become a High School Physics Teacher



Think about it!

There is a strong, persistent, and growing demand for good high school physics teachers in Illinois and across the nation. Many positions will go unfilled unless more individuals decide to pursue this career. According to the U.S. Department of Education, within the next ten years half of all current high school teachers will have to be replaced due to retirement and transfers. Physics teaching in Illinois will be similarly impacted. You can make a difference by becoming a high school physics teacher.