

Education: A pathway of opportunity

Education is a fundamental aspect of any well-functioning society. Education results in upward mobility, economic prosperity and stability – **it perpetuates the knowledge and skills needed to continue social momentum.**

Northeast Florida is home to over 190 public K-12 schools. St. Johns, Nassau and Clay Counties are ranked in the top 25 school districts in Florida. Schools offer career-focused academies and career and technical education (CTE) programs. This region retains talent taught by our educational professionals.

According to careeraddict.com, communication, leadership, multitasking and organization are included in the top 25 skills needed to be a successful primary or secondary educator. Adaptability is also an important skill to have as an educator. Each day, the classroom or work environment can look very different depending on students or unforeseen circumstances. Educators need to handle each situation calmly and quickly.

Jobs that easily segue into the teaching field range from tutor, camp counselor, youth group instructor or 4-H leader. Choosing this pathway results in impacting the pathway of others and helping create a better future.

FAST FACTS

51,000+ employed in the sector in the region

\$55,980 average wage per worker in Northeast Florida

13 colleges, universities and state colleges in the region

TOP EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION



11,310 employees



300 employees



5,250 employees



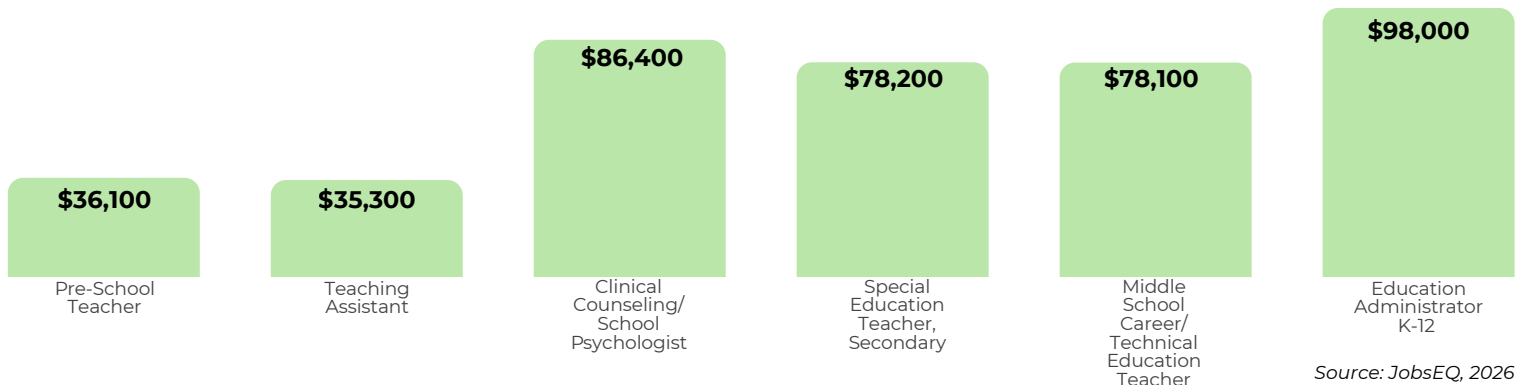
UNF UNIVERSITY of NORTH FLORIDA
2,580 employees



FSCJ Florida State College at Jacksonville
2,600 employees

AVERAGE WAGES

Entry-Senior Level



Source: JobsEQ, 2026

Talent Pipeline

Teaching and early childhood academy programs

- Edward Waters University
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
- Jacksonville University
- Keiser University
- St. Johns River State College
- University of North Florida
- Flagler College
- University of Florida (Graduate Campus)

Graduate Level

- Education, optional focus on Teaching and Learning or Leadership (MSEd, PhD, or EdD)
- Education, Policy and Advocacy (MA)
- Instructional Design and Technology (MS or EdS)
- Organizational Leadership (MSOL)
- School Counseling (MED)

ADVANCED DEGREE

- Educational, Guidance, Career Counselors and Advisor **(\$61,600)**
- Clinical Counseling/School Psychologist **(\$86,400)**
- School Administrator, Elementary and Secondary **(\$98,000)**

Bachelor Level

- Early Childhood Education (BS or BAE)
- Education (English, Math, Middle School, Science, or Social Studies) (BAE)
- Education for Instruction
- Elementary Education (BAE)
- Exceptional Student Education (BAE)
- Deaf Education or Deaf and Hard of Hearing (BAE)

4-YEAR DEGREE

- CTE Teacher, Postsecondary **(\$76,900)**
- Child, Family, School Social Worker **(\$59,000)**
- Special Education Teacher, Middle School **(\$65,300)**
- Elementary School Teacher **(\$69,400)**
- Secondary School Teacher **(\$72,800)**

Associate Level

- Early Childhood Education (AS)

2-YEAR DEGREE

- Teaching Assistant **(\$35,300)**
- Childcare Worker **(\$37,700)**

Certificate Level

- Child Development Associate (CDA)—VPK Early Teacher Training
- Director's Credential

1 YEAR (OR LESS) CERTIFICATE

- Pre-school Teacher, Except Special Education **(\$36,100)**

Entry Point

- High school students enrolled in any **one of 14** related Career and Technical Education (CTE) academies or curriculum. This also includes certification opportunities.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- Substitute Teacher-Short-term **(\$39,300)**

*Yearly wages are based on number of hours worked. Additional training may be provided by school districts.

DATA PROVIDED BY JOBSEQ 2026, ONET.ORG, BLS.GOV AND INDEED.COM
This represents a sampling of programs currently being offered. Curriculum is subject to change.

SELECT REGIONAL EMPLOYERS



CONGRATULATIONS 2026 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Baker County: Karlie Hodges, Legacy Elementary School

Clay County: Dorothy Bailey, Grove Park Elementary

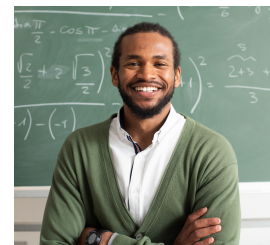
Duval County: Dr. Mari Richardson, Jean Ribault High School

Flagler County: Michelle Moore, Belle Terre Elementary School

Nassau County: Sarah Twardy, Fernandina Beach High School

Putnam County : Arielle Driggers, Palatka High School

St. Johns County : Sabina Atic, Beachside High School



JAXUSA TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Anna Lebesch, Senior Vice President
(904)366-6651 or alebesch@jaxusa.org

Earn Up is powered by JAXUSA Partnership, the private, nonprofit division of JAX Chamber that is Jacksonville's regional economic development initiative overseeing the efforts of the seven counties of Northeast Florida. Earn Up also works closely with CareerSource Northeast Florida to ensure that employers have the best assistance or any pertinent workforce needs.