

Educational Aides

Whether they're called teacher aides, classroom aides, or educational aides, these dedicated and caring individuals play a key role in providing educational experiences to our children.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Educational aides assist with instructional tasks in the classroom. They work under the supervision of teachers and other instructional leaders, and their duties may include:

- Assist teachers in their teaching duties and other general responsibilities, such as lesson planning and preparation, instructional support, organizing activities, etc.
- Provide classroom management support and one-on-one student support as necessary, in conjunction with other instructional team members.
- Assist teachers with administrative tasks, such as maintaining student information, attendance, progress reports, behavior reports, etc.
- Provide direct services for behavior and personal care support.
- Help teachers oversee students in the classroom and provide student supervision in lieu of teacher's presence.
- Ensure proper handling and upkeep of educational materials, supplies, equipment, etc.



There were **over 21,000 educational aides** in Ohio during the 2015–16 school year.

From 1970 to 2010, the Educational Aide employment category was the **fastest growing school occupation** in the United States.

53% of all the educator licenses issued in Ohio in 2016–17 school year were for student support services.

Qualifications:

Along with a passion for helping children, an educational aide must do the following.

- Earn a high school diploma or GED
- Pass a criminal background check
- Obtain an Educational Aide Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education



Skills and Traits

- Dependability and confidentiality
- Ability to maintain composure, even in difficult and stressful situations
- Empathy and integrity
- Professionalism and patience
- Ability to establish and maintain interpersonal relationships
- Active listening and strong communication skills
- Organization and detail-orientation
- Strong time-management skills

In addition many educational aides have very strong ties to the communities they serve, often living in these neighborhoods and speaking the same languages as the children.

A Possible Stepping Stone

While many educational aides enjoy long careers in that specific role, others use the experience as an entry into becoming a licensed teacher.

**If you are interested in becoming
an educational aide, please contact
your area school districts or visit
education.ohio.gov/about/education-jobs**

References

- Facts and Figures | Ohio Department of Education. (2018, November 27). Retrieved from <http://education.ohio.gov/Media/Facts-and-Figures>
- Osewalt, G. (2018). Paraprofessionals: who they are and what they do. Retrieved from <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/partnering-with-childs-school/working-with-childs-teacher/paraprofessionals-who-they-are-and-what-they-do>
- *Who are paraeducators?* (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.nea.org/home/67057.htm>