

# Education in the USA

# Stages of School

## Preschool

- The average enrollment age for Preschool in the United States is four years old. (3-5 year olds).

## Elementary School

- The institution which provides children with basic primary education between the age of 4 and 14.
- Elementary School is divided into five levels which include (from the lowest to the highest) kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and 4th grade.
- The curriculum taught in Elementary School is determined by school district boards with individual school districts having distinct curriculums and encompasses arithmetic, language proficiency, social studies, and sciences.

# Stages of School

## **Middle School**

- After graduating from Elementary School, children then enter into Middle School which comprises of 5th grade through to 8th grade. The age range of children in Middle School is between 10 years and 14 years old.

## **High School**

- The age range of children in High School is between 15 years and 18 years. Upon completion of High School education, successful students are awarded a high school diploma which certifies that they are ready for tertiary-level education.

# School Districts

- The U.S. is currently home to **16,800 school districts**.
- School Districts are responsible for creating the ***curriculum***, monitoring staff, and regulating other programs.
- School Districts are public ***entities*** and are therefore funded by the government.
- State Governments determine the ***budget*** that schools are allowed.

## Vocabulary

- **Curriculum** - the subjects comprising a course of study in a school or college.
- **Entity** - an entity can be a single person, single product, or single organization.
- **Budget** - Income and expenditure for a set period of time.

# Private High Schools

- The best education is obtained in private schools.
- The curriculum, teachers and programs are all determined by the specific private institution.
- However, an annual tuition is due in order to afford the higher quality provided by the private schools.

## After High School

- School is mandatory until the completion of high school (18 years old).
- Students can then decide to:
  1. Begin work immediately
  2. Attend Vocational School
  3. Attend University

# Vocational School

- Vocational schools are **post-secondary schools** (students usually enroll after graduating from high school or obtaining their GEDs) that teach the skills necessary to help students acquire jobs in specific industries.

# Vocational School Examples

- Mechanical and automotive schools.
- Business schools.
- Culinary schools.
- Art and design schools.
- Cosmetology schools.
- Education programs.
- Health care schools.
- Legal and criminal justice schools.

# University in the United States

- During high school, students must go through the process of applying to colleges.
- Typically, students apply to many schools in order to have options on where to go.
- There are private and public universities. Private universities are generally more expensive.

# Student Loans and Debt

- Normally, students need to take out loans from the Federal Government to pay for the expenses of University.
- Current student loan debt: **\$1.73 trillion** as of July 2021
- Scholarships are available for students which reduce the price of attending University.

# Types of Degrees

- A Bachelor's Degree is obtained after the successful completion of 4 years of college.
- Further degrees require more schooling. **Master's Programs** or **Graduate School** are necessary to obtain a Master's Degree or Doctorate Degree, respectively.

## Normal Salaries

- The average salary in the United States is **\$56,310**
- The average wage is \$20.17 an hour.

## Colorado Minimum Wage over the years

Year	Minimum Wage	Increase from Prior Year
2011	\$7.36	12¢ (1.7%)
2012	\$7.64	24¢ (3.8%)
2013	\$7.78	24¢ (1.8%)
2014	\$8.00	22¢ (2.8%)
2015	\$8.23	23¢ (2.9%)
2016	\$8.31	24¢ (1.0%)
2017	\$9.30	24¢ (11.9%)
2018	\$10.20	24¢ (9.7%)
2019	\$11.10	24¢ (8.8%)
2020	\$12.00	90¢ (8.1%)
2021	\$12.32	32¢ (2.7%)
2022	\$12.56*	24¢ (1.9%)

# Common Jobs in the USA

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/most-common-jobs-in-america>

## My Job History

- Fly-Fishing Guide and Child Care at a Western Guest Ranch
- Camp Counselor for an outdoor activity camp (kayaking, mountain biking, canoeing, hiking)
- Medical Scribe



- Land Conservation Youth Corps Crewmember