

Enrollment

In 2010–11, there were about 13,600 public school districts made up of over 98,800 public schools, including about 5,300 charter schools. In 2009–10, there were about 33,400 private schools offering kindergarten or higher grades. In fall 2012, over 49.8 million students will attend public elementary and secondary schools. An additional 5.3 million students are expected to attend private schools.

Teachers

Public school systems will employ about 3.3 million full-time-equivalent (FTE) teachers this fall, such that the number of pupils per FTE teacher—that is, the pupil/teacher ratio—will be 15.2. This ratio is lower than the 2000 ratio of 16.0.

Teacher Qualifications:

Current federal education legislation requires school districts to measure and report on teacher qualifications, both to ensure that students are being taught by highly qualified teachers and to ensure that teachers are distributed equitably across schools, regardless of student demographics. Teachers are certified by the state in which they teach.

Expenditures

Public elementary and secondary schools will spend about \$571 billion for the 2012–13 school year. On average, the current expenditure per student is projected at \$11,467 for this school year.

Attainment

About 3.4 million students are expected to graduate from high school in 2012–13, including 3.1 million students from public high schools and 283,000 students from private high schools.

The percentage of high school dropouts among 16- through 24-year-olds declined from 11.8 percent in 1998 to 7.4 percent in 2010. Although there have been declines in the Black and Hispanic dropout rates—which have traditionally been among the highest—dropout rates for Blacks and Hispanics remain higher than those for Whites and Asians.

School Uniforms: In 2009–10, about 19 percent of public school principals reported that their school required students to wear uniforms, an increase from 12 percent in 1999–2000. Also in 2009–10, approximately 57 percent of public school principals reported that their school enforced a strict dress code, an increase from 47 percent in 1999–2000.

Non-native English Speakers: The number of school-age children (children ages 5–17) who spoke a language other than English at home rose from 4.7 to 11.2 million between 1980 and 2009, or from 10 to 21 percent of the population in this age range. From 2006 to 2009, this percentage remained between 20 and 21 percent. After increasing from 4 to 7 percent between 1980 and 2000, the percentage of school-age children who spoke a language other than English at home decreased to 5 percent in 2009.

Educational Technology: In 2009, 97 percent of teachers had one or more computers located in the classroom every day, while 54 percent could bring computers into the classroom. Internet access was available for 93 percent of the computers located in the classroom every day and for 96 percent of the computers that could be brought into the classroom. The ratio of students to computers in the classroom every day was 5.3 to 1.

Centralization & Control

Is the U.S. education system highly centralized at the federal level with consistent standards and assessments across states? No. A snapshot of American schools shows a very different picture. K-12 education is diffuse and decentralized. Local school boards and state governments play more prominent roles than the federal government. Academic expectations historically have varied widely from state to state making it virtually impossible to compare results. As of 2009, the public K-12 system included more than 17,800 districts educating more than 49 million students, about 16% of U.S. population. The country's education system is far more diverse than the overall population.

- About half of the states encourage schools to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag
- Most states require that their school districts within the state teach for 180 days a year
- Parents may choose to educate their own children at home; 1.7% of children are homeschooled.

The Cost of Education

The U.S. Department of Education, which has a budget of about \$70 billion, covers only about 10% of overall K-12 public school funding. The remaining 90% comes primarily from state and local governments, with some support coming from private sources.

Demographic Characteristics

- Among full-time and part-time public school teachers in 2007–08, some 76 percent of public school teachers were female, 44 percent were under age 40, and 52 percent had a master's or higher degree. Compared with public school teachers, a lower percentage of private school teachers were female (74 percent), were under age 40 (39 percent), and had a master's or higher degree (38 percent).
- In addition, among both males and females, 83 percent of public school teachers were White, 7 percent each were Black or Hispanic, 1 percent each were Asian or of two or more races, and less than one percent each were Pacific Islander or American Indian/Alaska Native in 2007–08.

Pupil/Teacher Ratio

- For public schools, the number of pupils per FTE teacher—that is, the pupil/teacher ratio, declined from 22.3 in 1970 to 17.9 in 1985. After 1985, the public school pupil/teacher ratio continued to decline, reaching 17.2 in 1989. After a period of relative stability during the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, the ratio declined from 17.3 in 1995 to 16.0 in 2000. Decreases have continued since then, and the public school pupil/teacher ratio was 15.4 in 2009. By comparison, the pupil/teacher ratio for private schools was estimated at 12.5 in 2009. The average class size in 2007–08 was 20.0 pupils for public elementary schools and 23.4 pupils for public secondary schools.

Mobility

- Of the 3,380,300 full-time public school teachers who were teaching during the 2007–08 school year, 84.5 percent remained at the same school (“stayers”), 7.6 percent moved to a different school (“movers”), and 8.0 percent left the profession (“leavers”) during the following year.

Salary

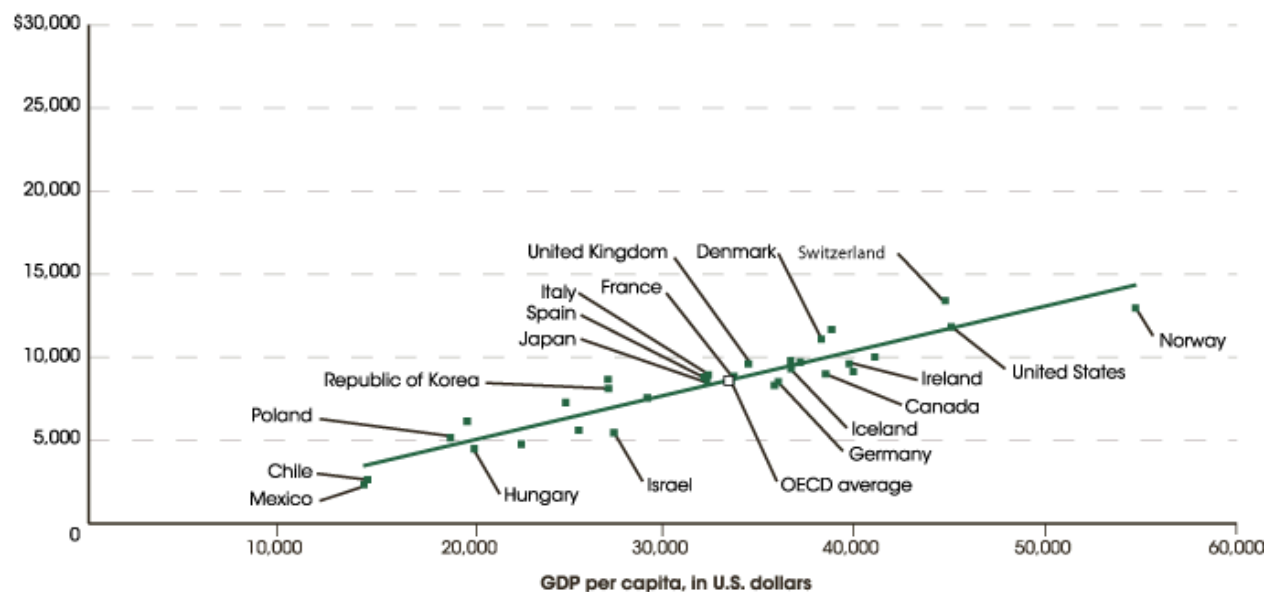
- The average salary for full-time public school teachers in 2010–11 was \$56,069 in current dollars (i.e. dollars that are not adjusted for inflation). In constant (inflation-adjusted) dollars, the average salary was about 3 percent higher in 2010–11 than in 1990–91.

Textbook review and adoption

In many localities in the United States, the curriculum taught in public schools is influenced by the textbooks used by the teachers. In some states, textbooks are selected for all students at the state level. Since states such as California and Texas represent a considerable market for textbook publishers, these states can exert influence over the content of the books. In 2010, the Texas Board of Education adopted new Social Studies standards that could potentially impact the content of textbooks purchased in other parts of the country. The deliberations that resulted in the new standards were partisan in nature and are said to reflect a conservative leaning in the view of United States history.

Annual expenditures per full-time-equivalent student for elementary and secondary education in selected Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: 2009

Expenditures per student



Data From CCD: FY10 (2009-2010) <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/stateprofiles/>

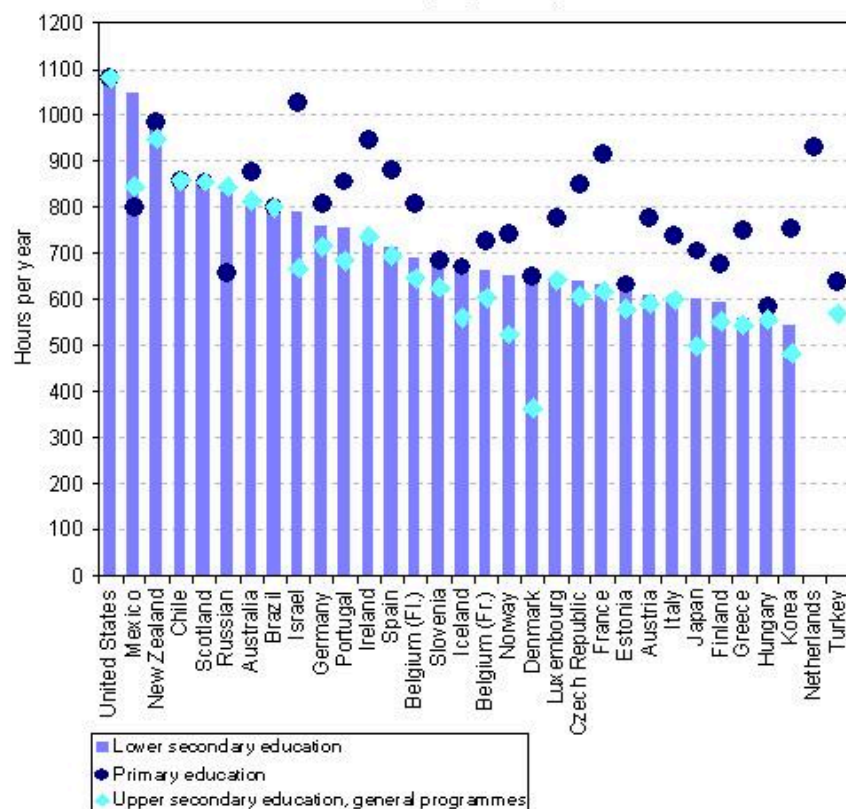
	California	U.S. (average)
Local Revenue- Subtotal	\$20,531,747,226	\$5,097,138,660
State Revenues	\$34,743,248,852	\$5,094,309,180
Federal Revenues	\$8,855,245,861	\$1,490,154,078
Total Revenues	\$64,130,241,939	\$11,715,409,205

From: <http://www.edudemic.com/2011/10/global-teacher-salaries/>

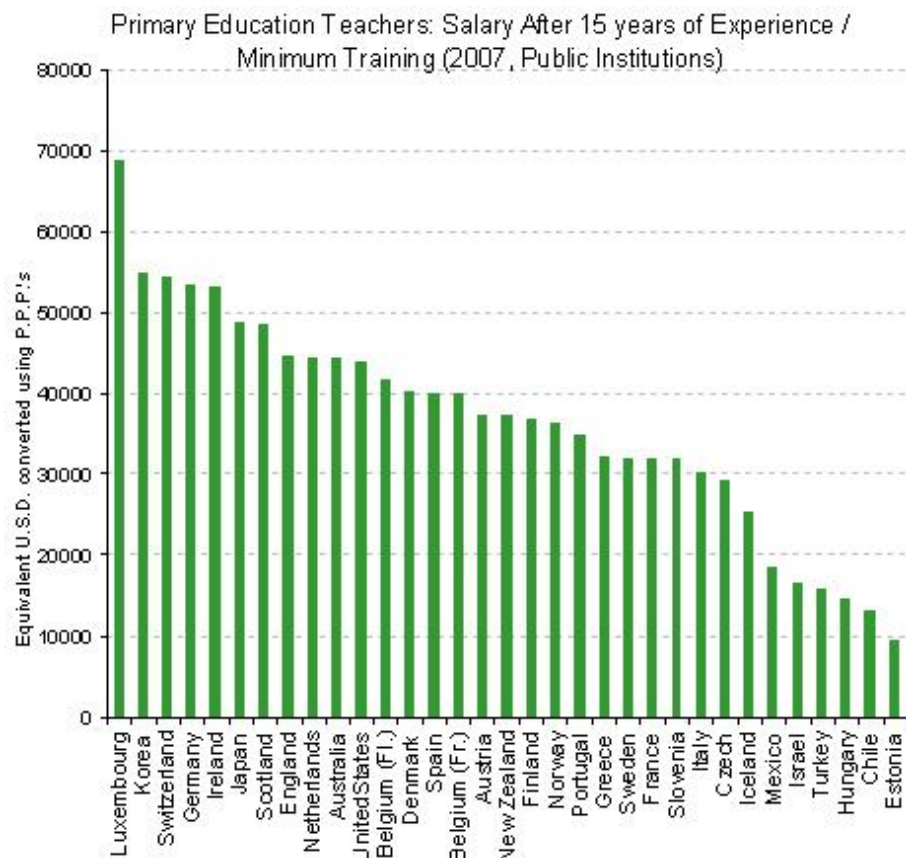
American teachers spend on average 1,080 hours teaching each year. Across the O.E.C.D., the average is 794 hours on primary education.

Number of Teaching Hours per Year, by Level of Education (2007)

Net contact time in hours per year in public institutions

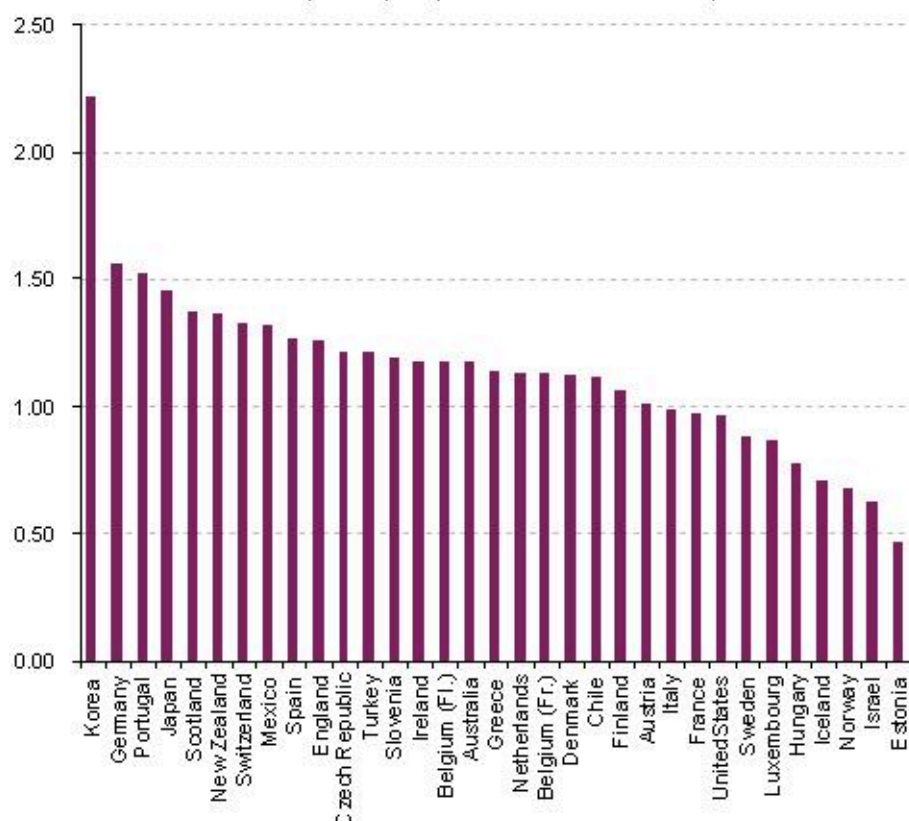


American teachers' pay is more middling. The average public primary-school teacher who has worked 15 years and has received the minimum amount of training, for example, earns \$43,633, compared to the O.E.C.D. average of \$39,007.



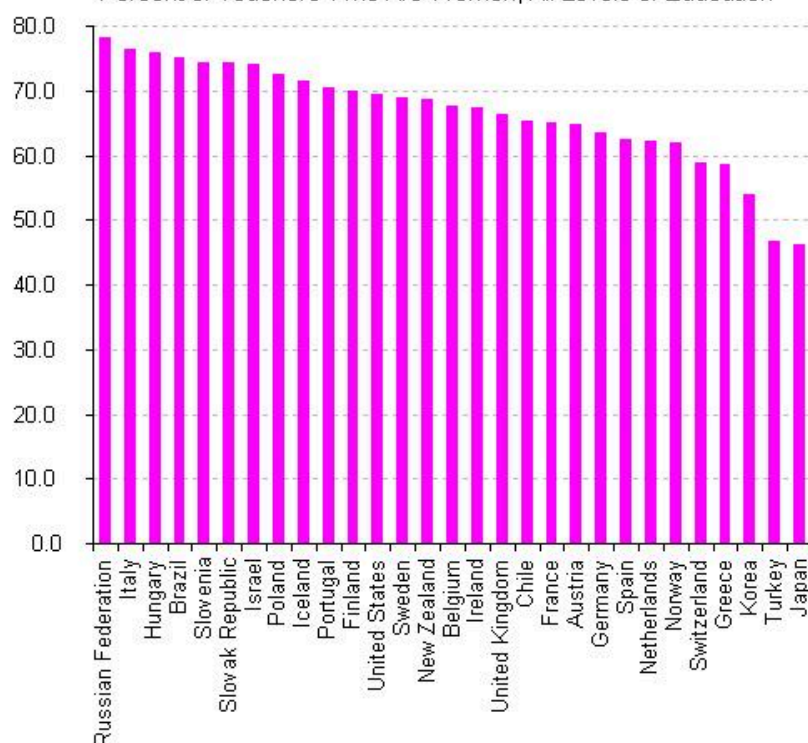
Comparing each country's teacher salaries to the wealth of that country makes United States educational salaries appear lower. In the United States, a teacher with 15 years of experience makes a salary that is 96 percent of the country's gross domestic product per capita. Across the O.E.C.D., a teacher of equivalent experience makes 117 percent of G.D.P. per capita. At the high end of the scale, in Korea, the average teacher at this level makes a full 221 percent of the country's G.D.P. per capita.

Primary Education Teachers: Ratio of Salary After 15 Years of Experience to G.D.P. per Capita (2007 , Public Institutions)



Annual statutory teachers' salaries in public institutions in primary education, ratio of salary after 15 years of experience to gross domestic product per capita.

Percent of Teachers Who Are Women, All Levels of Education

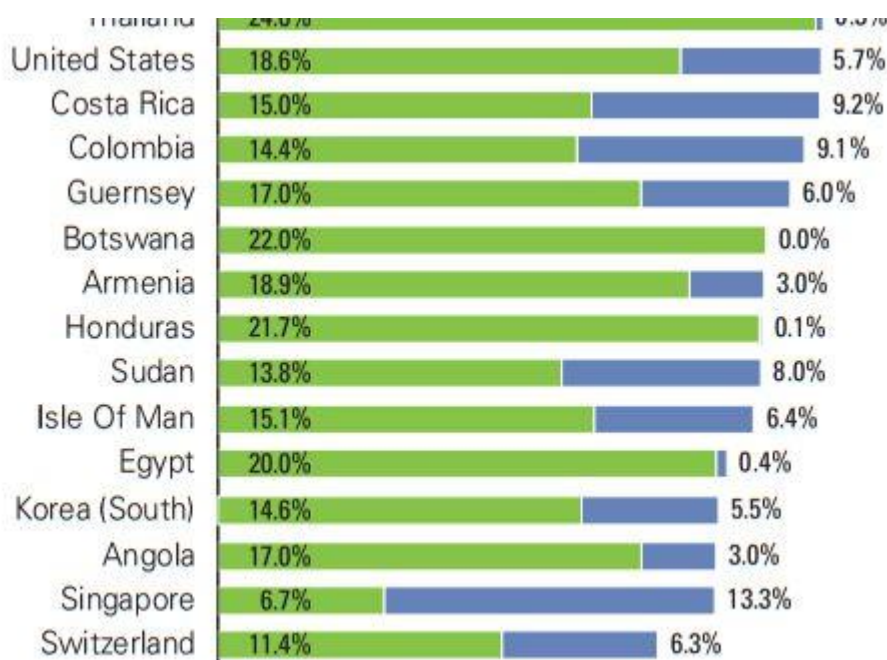


From:

<http://www.kpmg.com/Global/en/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/individual-income-tax-social-security-rate-survey-September-2011.pdf>

Effective Income Tax and Social Security Rates on USD100,000 of Gross Income

- Effective Employee Social Security Rate
- Effective Income Tax Rate



More Stats: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/2012menu_tables.asp
<http://www.achieve.org/files/InDepth-Basic-Facts-Education.pdf>

Curriculum

Typically, the curriculum in public elementary education is determined by individual school districts. The school district selects curriculum guides and textbooks that reflect a state's learning standards and benchmarks for a given grade level. Learning Standards are the goals by which states and school districts must meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) as mandated by No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The **Common Core State Standards** Initiative is a U.S. education initiative that seeks to bring diverse state curricula into alignment with each other by following the principles of standards-based education reform. The initiative is sponsored by the National Governors Association.

Standards were released for mathematics and English language arts on June 2, 2010, with a majority of states adopting the standards in the subsequent months. States were given an incentive to adopt the Common Core Standards through the possibility of competitive federal Race to the Top grants. To be eligible, states had to adopt "internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the work place." The Common Core has drawn criticism from across the political spectrum, from the liberal Brookings Institute to the libertarian Cato Institute. Conservatives, including several Republican governors, have assailed the program as a federal "top-down" takeover of state and local education systems. South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said her state should not "relinquish control of education to the federal government, neither should we cede it to the consensus of other states."

Timeline of U.S. Education and related history

From: <http://www.eds-resources.com/educationhistorytimeline.html>

1620 - The Mayflower arrives at Cape Cod, bringing the "Pilgrims" who establish the Plymouth Colony. Many of the Pilgrims are Puritans who had fled religious persecution in England. Their religious views come to dominate education in the New England colonies.

1635 - The first Latin Grammar School (Boston Latin School) is established. Latin Grammar Schools are designed for sons of certain social classes who are destined for leadership positions in church, state, or the courts.

1636 - Harvard College, the first higher education institution in what is now the United States, is established

1640 - Henry Dunster becomes President of Harvard College. He teaches all the courses himself!

1693 - John Locke's *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* is published, describing his views on educating upper class boys to be moral, rationally-thinking, and reflective "young gentlemen." His ideas regarding educating the masses are conveyed in *On Working Schools*, published in 1697, which focused on the importance of developing a work ethic.

1698 - The first publicly supported library in the U.S. is established in Charles Town, South Carolina. Two years later, the General Assembly of South Carolina passes the first public library law.

1743 - Benjamin Franklin forms the American Philosophical Society, which helps bring ideas of the European Enlightenment, including those of John Locke, to colonial America. Emphasizing **secularism**, science, and human reason, these ideas clash with the religious dogma of the day, but greatly influence the thinking of prominent colonists, including Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

1751 - Benjamin Franklin helps to establish the first "English Academy" in Philadelphia with a curriculum that is both classical and modern, including such courses as history, geography, navigation, surveying, and modern as well as classical languages. The academy ultimately becomes the University of Pennsylvania.

1775 - The Revolutionary War begins.

1776 - The Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4th. Written by Thomas Jefferson, The document serves notice to King George III and the rest of the world that the American Colonies no longer considered themselves part of the British Empire.

1779 – Thomas Jefferson proposes a two-track educational system, with different tracks for "the laboring and the learned."

1783 - The Revolutionary War officially ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which recognizes U.S. independence and possession of all land east of the Mississippi except the Spanish colony of Florida

1783 to 1785 - Because of his dissatisfaction with English textbooks of the day, Noah Webster writes A Grammatical Institute of the English Language , consisting of three volumes: a spelling book, a grammar book, and a reader. They become very widely used throughout the United States.

1787 - The Constitutional Convention assembles in Philadelphia. Later that year, the constitution is endorsed by the Confederation Congress (the body that governed from 1781 until the ratification of the U.S. Constitution) and sent to state legislatures for ratification. The document does not include the words education or school.

1787 - The Young Ladies Academy opens in Philadelphia and becomes the first academy for girls in America.

1788 - The U. S. Constitution is ratified by the required number of states.

1791 - The Bill of Rights is passed by the first Congress of the new United States. No mention is made of education in any of the amendments. However, the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution states that powers not delegated to the federal government "are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people." Thus, education becomes a function of the state rather than the federal government.

1801 - James Pillans invents the blackboard.

1821 - The first public high school, Boston English High School, opens .

1823 - Catherine Beecher founds the Hartford Female Seminary, a private school for girls in Hartford, Connecticut. She goes on to found more schools and become a prolific writer. Her sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, an influential abolitionist, is the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

1827 - The state of Massachusetts passes a law requiring towns of more than 500 families to have a public high school open to all students.

1836 - The first of William Holmes McGuffey's readers is published. Their secular tone sets them apart from the Puritan texts of the day. The Readers, as they came to be known, are among the most influential textbooks of the 19th Century.

1837 - Horace Mann becomes Secretary of the newly formed Massachusetts State Board of Education. A visionary educator and proponent of public (or "free") schools, Mann works tirelessly for increased funding of public schools and better training for teachers. As Editor of the Common School Journal, his belief in the importance of free, universal public education gains a national audience.

1837 - Eighty students arrive at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, the first college for women in the U.S. Its founder/president is Mary Lyon.

1837 - The African Institute (later called the Institute for Colored Youth) opens in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. Now called Cheyney University, it the oldest institution of higher learning for African Americans.

1839 - The first state funded school specifically for teacher education (then known as "normal" schools) opens in Lexington, Massachusetts.

1848 - Samuel Gridley Howe helps establish the Experimental School for Teaching and Training Idiotic Children, the

first school of its kind in the U.S.
Euphemism: retarded, mentally challenged
special needs

1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell graduates from Geneva Medical College, becoming the first woman to graduate from medical school. She later becomes a pioneer in the education of women in medicine.

1852 - Massachusetts enacts the first mandatory attendance law. By 1885, 16 states have compulsory-attendance laws, but most of those laws are sporadically enforced at best. All states have them by 1918.

1854 -The Boston Public Library opens to the public. It is the first major tax-supported free library in the U.S.

1856 - The first kindergarten in the U.S. is started in Watertown, Wisconsin, founded by Margarethe Schurz. Four years later, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody opens the first "formal" kindergarten in Boston, MA.

1857 - The National Teachers Association (now the National Education Association) is founded by forty-three educators in Philadelphia.

1859 - Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* is published on November 24, introducing his theory that species evolve through the process of natural selection, and setting the stage for the controversy surrounding teaching the theory of evolution in public schools that persists to this day.

1861~1865 - The U.S. Civil War

1865 - The Civil War ends with Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. Much of the south, including its educational institutions, is left in disarray. Many schools are closed. Even before the war, public education in the south was far behind that in the north. The physical devastation left by the war as well as the social upheaval and poverty that follow exacerbate this situation.

1867 - The Department of Education is created in order to help states establish effective school systems.

1875 - The Civil Rights Act is passed, banning segregation in all public accommodations. The Supreme Court rules it unconstitutional in 1883.

1876 - The Dewey Decimal System, developed by Melvil Dewey in 1873, is published and patented. The DDC is still the world's most widely-used library classification system.

1884 -The first practical fountain pen is patented by Lewis Waterman.

1911 - The first Montessori school in the U.S. opens in Tarrytown, New York. Two years later (1913), Maria Montessori visits the U.S., and Alexander Graham Bell and his wife Mabel found the Montessori Educational Association.

1916 - John Dewey's *Democracy and Education. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education* is published. Dewey's views help advance the ideas of the "progressive education movement." An outgrowth of the progressive political movement, progressive education seeks to make schools more effective agents of democracy. His daughter, Evelyn Dewey, coauthors *Schools of To-morrow* with her father, and goes on to write several books on her own.

1919 - All states have laws providing funds for transporting children to school.

1920 - The 19th Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote.

1925 - *Tennessee vs. John Scopes ("the Monkey Trial")* captures national attention as John Scopes, a high school biology teacher, is charged with the heinous crime of teaching evolution. The trial ends in Scopes' conviction. The evolution versus creationism controversy persists to this day.

1926 - The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is first administered. It is based on the Army Alpha test.

1929 - The Great Depression begins with the stock market crash in October. The U.S. economy is devastated. Public education funding suffers greatly, resulting in school closings, teacher layoffs, and lower salaries.

1931 - *Alvarez vs. the Board of Trustees of the Lemon Grove (California) School District* becomes the first successful school desegregation court case in the United States, as the local court forbids the school district from placing Mexican-American children in a separate "Americanization" school.

1938 - Ladislao Biro and his brother Georg patent the ballpoint pen.

1939 - Frank W. Cyr, a professor at Columbia University's Teachers College, organizes a national conference on student transportation. It results in the adoption of standards for the nation's school buses, including the shade of yellow.

1944 - The G.I. Bill officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, is signed by FDR on June 22. Because the law provides the same opportunity to every veteran, regardless of background, the long-standing tradition that a college education was only for the wealthy is broken.

1946 - The computer age begins as the Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer (ENIAC), the first vacuum-tube computer, is built for the U.S. military by Presper Eckert and John Mauchly.

1946 - Recognizing "the need for a permanent legislative basis for a school lunch program," the 79th Congress approves the National School Lunch Act.

1948 - In the case of *McCormack v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court rules that schools cannot allow "released time" during the school day which allows students to participate in religious education in their public school classrooms.

1954 - On May 17th, the U.S. Supreme Court announces its decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, ruling that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," thus overturning its previous ruling in the 1896 case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. It is a historic first step in the long and still unfinished journey toward equality in U.S. education.

1955 - Rosa Parks, a Montgomery, Alabama seamstress, refuses to give up her seat on the bus to a Caucasian passenger and is arrested and fined. The Montgomery bus boycott follows, giving impetus to the Civil Rights Movement.

1956 - The *Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals; Handbook I: Cognitive Domain* is published. Often referred to simply as "Bloom's Taxonomy" because of its primary author, Benjamin S. Bloom,

1957 - Federal troops enforce integration in Little Rock, Arkansas as the Little Rock 9 enroll at Central High School.

1957 - The Soviet Union launches Sputnik, the first satellite to orbit the Earth. Occurring in the midst of the Cold War, it represents both a potential threat to American national security as well as a blow to national pride.

1958 - At least partially because of Sputnik, science and science education become important concerns in the U.S., resulting in the passage of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) which authorizes increased funding for scientific research as well as science, mathematics, and foreign language education.

1962 - In the case of *Engel v. Vitale*, the U. S. Supreme Court rules that the state of New York's Regents prayer violates the First Amendment. The ruling specifies that "state officials may not compose an official state prayer and require that it be recited in the public schools of the State at the beginning of each school day. . . ."

1963 - In the cases of *School District of Abington Township, Pennsylvania v. Schempp* and *Murray v. Curlett*, the U. S. Supreme Court reaffirms *Engel v. Vitale* by ruling that "no state law or school board may require that passages from the Bible be read or that the Lord's Prayer be recited in the public schools . . . even if individual students may be excused from attending or participating"

1963 - Samuel A. Kirk uses the term "learning disability" at a Chicago conference on children with perceptual disorders. The term sticks, and in 1964, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, now the Learning Disabilities Association of America, is formed. Today, nearly one-half of all students in the U.S. who receive special education have been identified as having learning disabilities.

1964 - The Civil Rights Act becomes law. It prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

1965 - The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is passed on April 9. Part of Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty," it provides federal funds to help low-income students, which results in the initiation of educational programs

such as Title I and bilingual education.

1965 - Project Head Start, a preschool education program for children from low-income families, begins as an eight-week summer program. Part of the "War on Poverty," the program continues to this day as the longest-running anti-poverty program in the U.S.

1968 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Nobel Prize winner and leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4th. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, observed on the third Monday of January, celebrates his "life and legacy."

1968 - The Bilingual Education Act, also known as Title VII, becomes law. After many years of controversy, the law is repealed in 2002 and replaced by the No Child Left Behind Act.

1968 - The "Monkey Trial" revisited! In the case of *Epperson et al. v. Arkansas*, the U.S. Supreme Court finds the state of Arkansas' law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in a public school or university unconstitutional.

1968 - McCarver Elementary School in Tacoma, Washington becomes the nation's first magnet school.

1969 - Herbert R. Kohl's book, *The Open Classroom*, helps to promote open education, an approach emphasizing student-centered classrooms and active, holistic learning. The conservative back-to-the-basics movement of the 1970s begins at least partially as a backlash against open education. .

1970 - Jean Piaget's book, *The Science of Education*, is published. His Learning Cycle model helps to popularize discovery-based teaching approaches, particularly in the sciences.

1970 - The case of *Diana v. California State Board* results in new laws requiring that children referred for possible special education placement be tested in their primary language.

1971 - In the case of *Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children (PARC) v. Pennsylvania*, the federal court rules that students with mental retardation are entitled to a free public education.

1971 - Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, invents the e-Book.

1972 - Texas Instruments introduces the first in its line of electronic hand-held calculators, the TI-2500 Data Math. TI becomes an industry leader known around the world.

1972 - The case of *Mills v. the Board of Education of Washington, D.C.* extends the *PARC v. Pennsylvania* ruling to other students with disabilities and requires the provision of "adequate alternative educational services suited to the child's needs, which may include special education . . ." Other similar cases follow.

1972 - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 becomes law. Though many people associate this law only with girls' and women's participation in sports, Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex in all aspects of education.

1972 - The Marland Report to Congress on gifted and talented education is issued. It recommends a broader definition of giftedness that is still widely accepted today.

1974 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the failure of the San Francisco School District to provide English language instruction to Chinese-American students with limited English proficiency (LEP) is a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Though the case does not require a specific approach to teaching LEP students, it does require school districts to provide equal opportunities for all students, including those who do not speak English.

1974 - Federal Judge Arthur Garrity orders busing of African American students to predominantly white schools in order to achieve racial integration of public schools in Boston, MA. White parents protest, particularly in South Boston.

1975 - Newsweek's December 8 cover story, "Why Johnny Can't Write," heats up the debate about national literacy and the back-to-the-basics movement.

1977 - Apple Computer, now Apple Inc., introduces the Apple II, one of the first successful personal computers. It and its offspring, the Apple IIe, become popular in schools as students begin to learn with computer games such as Oregon Trail and Odell Lake.

1980 - Ronald Reagan is elected president, ushering in a new conservative era, not only in foreign and economic policy, but in education as well. However, he never carries out his pledge to reduce the federal role in education by eliminating the Department of Education, which had become a Cabinet level agency that same year under the Carter

administration..

1981 - John Holt's book, *Teach Your Own: A Hopeful Path for Education*, adds momentum to the homeschooling movement.

1981 - IBM introduces its version of the personal computer (PC) with its Model 5150. Its operating system is MS-DOS.

1982 - In the case of *Edwards v. Aguillard*, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidates Louisiana's "Creationism Act," which requires the teaching of creationism whenever evolution is taught, because it violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

1982 - In the case of *Plyler v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in a 5-4 decision that Texas law denying access to public education for undocumented school-age children violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. The ruling also found that school districts cannot charge tuition fees for the education of these children.

1982 - In the case of *Board of Education v. Pico*, the U.S. Supreme court rules that books cannot be removed from a school library because school administrators deemed their content to be offensive.

1985 - In the case of *Wallace v. Jaffree*, the U.S. Supreme Court finds that Alabama statutes authorizing silent prayer and teacher-led voluntary prayer in public schools violate the First Amendment.

1986 - Christa McAuliffe is chosen by NASA from among more than 11,000 applicants to be the first teacher-astronaut, but her mission ends tragically as the Space Shuttle Challenger explodes 73 seconds after its launch, killing McAuliffe and the other six members of the crew.

1987 - In the case of *Edwards v. Aguillard, et al.* the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down a Louisiana requiring that creation science be taught along with evolution. Will this controversy ever be resolved?

1989 - The University of Phoenix establishes their "online campus," the first to offer online bachelor's and master's degrees. It becomes the "largest private university in North America."

1990 - Tim Berners-Lee, a British engineer and computer scientist called by many the inventor of the internet, writes the first web client-server protocol (Hypertext Translation Protocol or http), which allows two computers to communicate. On August 6, 1991, he puts the first web site on line from a computer at the CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) in order to facilitate information sharing among scientists. So . . . does this mean that Al Gore didn't invent the internet after all?

1990 - Public Law 101-476, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), renames and amends Public Law 94-142. In addition to changing terminology from handicap to disability, it mandates transition services and adds autism and traumatic brain injury to the eligibility list.

1990 - Teach for America is formed, reestablishing the idea of a National Teachers Corps.

1991 - Minnesota passes the first "charter school" law.

1991 - The smart board (interactive white board) is introduced by SMART Technologies.

1992 - City Academy High School, the nation's first charter school, opens in St. Paul, Minnesota.

1994 - As a backlash to illegal immigration, California voters pass Proposition 187, denying benefits, including public education, to undocumented aliens in California. It is challenged by the ACLU and other groups and eventually overturned.

1994-1995 - Whiteboards find their way into U.S. classrooms in increasing numbers and begin to replace the blackboard.

1995 - Georgia becomes the first state to offer universal preschool to all four year olds whose parents choose to enroll them. More than half of the state's four year olds are now enrolled.

1996 - James Banks' book, *Multicultural Education: Transformative Knowledge and Action*, makes an important contribution to the growing body of scholarship regarding multiculturalism in education..

1996 - The Oakland, California School District sparks controversy as it proposes that Ebonics be recognized as the

native language of African American children.

1998 - California voters pass Proposition 227, requiring that all public school instruction be in English. This time the law withstands legal challenges.

1998 - Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin set up a workplace for their newly incorporated search engine in a Menlo Park, California garage.

2001 - The controversial No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is approved by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 8, 2002. The law, which reauthorizes the ESEA of 1965 and replaces the Bilingual Education Act of 1968, mandates high-stakes student testing, holds schools accountable for student achievement levels, and provides penalties for schools that do not make adequate yearly progress toward meeting the goals of NCLB.

2002 - In the case of *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* the U.S. Supreme court rules that certain school voucher programs are constitutional and do not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

2009 - Quest to Learn (Q2L), the first school to teach primarily through game-based learning, opens in September in New York City with a class of sixth graders. There are plans to add a grade each year until the school serves students in grades six through twelve.

2010 - With the U.S. economy mired in a recession and unemployment remaining high, states have massive budget deficits. As many as 300,000 teachers face layoffs.

2013 - Education in the U.S. is forever changed by the arrival of 12 teaching pioneers from a far-off land. Known as TTP'ers, their extraordinary efforts and talents inspire generations of American teachers.

CPI: College Tuition vs. U.S. Home Prices vs. CPI: All Items, 1978 to 2010

