Housing & Education
A snapshot of housing affordability for those working in CA education jobs

Those working in education jobs struggle to find affordable housing near their workplaces in California. Rising rents have far outpaced modest wage increase, leaving many public school workers living paycheck to paycheck. This is not surprising given the generally high cost of housing throughout the state relative to household income.

CALIFORNIA’S HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS TURNS AWAY TEACHERS

- School Bus Drivers make on average $23,833 per year. The average salary needed to afford renting a 1-bedroom in California is $46,509.
- Childcare workers make on average $30,070 per year. They don't make enough to afford renting a studio in more than half of CA metros.
- Preschool Teachers need to make an additional $10,000 per year to be able to afford to rent an average 1-bedroom in California.
- Elementary school teachers can just barely afford* to rent an apartment in most counties, but run the risk of becoming rent burdened if unforeseen expenses arise, most are living paycheck to paycheck.

IT’S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SCHOOL STAFF TO LIVE AND WORK IN MANY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES

- Enrollment in teacher training programs has dropped 70% during the past decade, the supply of new teachers in California is at a 12-year low, according to researchers.
- Teachers, bus drivers, childcare workers, janitors and many other vital community members are priced out of many communities.
- School staff jobs can't be outsourced, so their housing predicaments hurt students and communities.

THE 2016 AVERAGE SALARIES** OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUPATIONS WERE NOT ENOUGH TO AFFORD TO RENT OR OWN AN AVERAGE ONE-BEDROOM HOME IN CA:

- Teacher Assistants
- Graduate Teaching Assistants
- Library Assistants, Clerical Staff
- School Bus Drivers
- Counselors
- Substitute Teachers
- Groundskeepers
- Coaches
- Library Technicians

*To be affordable, the cost of rent and utilities must not exceed 30% of household income. Household affordability estimates from HUD’s FY 2015 Fair Market Rents. Available at www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html
**Wage data is from Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages (OES) semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and occupational wage rates for wage and salary workers in California, by industry. Available at: http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/