



A Union of Professionals

2018 Wage Data for Early Childhood Educators

Data Summary—Preschool Teachers

- Number of preschool teachers making less than \$15: 189,533 (45% of the workforce)
- Number of preschool teachers making less than a living wage for a single parent: 336,092 (81% of the workforce)
- In no state is the median wage for a preschool teacher a living wage, and in only 12 states the median wage is greater than \$15
- From 2016-2017, 7 states' median wage increase for a preschool teacher was less than inflation, and in 24 states the median wage actually decreased
- From 2012-2016, 9 states' median wage increase for a preschool teacher was less than inflation, and in 11 states the median wage actually decreased

Data Summary—Childcare Workers Teachers

- Number of childcare workers making less than \$15: 457,756 (81% of the workforce)
- Number of childcare workers making less than a living wage for a single parent: 506,196 (90% of the workforce)
- In no state is the median wage for a childcare worker a living wage or a living wage
- From 2016-2017, 17 states median wage increase for a childcare worker was less than inflation, and in 3 states the median wage actually decreased
- From 2012-2017, 16 states median wage increase for a childcare workers was less than inflation

Earnings Comparisons

- Total Earnings of all Preschool Teachers, 2017: \$13.83 Billion
- Total Earnings of all Childcare Workers, 2017: \$13.4 Billion
- Benefit of Trump Tax Cuts to the 1% in 2019—\$85 Billion¹
- Benefit of Trump Tax Cuts to Foreign Investors in 2019—\$48 Billion²
- Cost of Corporate Tax Rate Cut in 2019—\$125 Billion³

¹ <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill/>

² <https://itep.org/finalgop-trumpbill/>

³ <https://www.jct.gov/publications.html?func=startdown&id=5053>

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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