

10 Great 'Encore Careers' for Retired Teachers

Teachers have an enormous store of skills and experience that can be turned into new opportunities in their retirement years. This article explores ten paths retired teachers are perfectly matched for.

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Most teachers spend their first year of “retirement” de-compressing from the full-time teaching gig. It’s that special time you’ve looked forward to for years. You do some traveling, catch up on all those books you never had time to read, and just relax. Your days are free of ringing bells and reports. Plus, you get to spend a much larger part of your day in your pajamas. Yay! You earned it. You know you’ve arrived when *Labor Day* stops feeling like *D-Day*.

After a year or so, however, you may start to realize you actually miss working. Not that you miss the standardized tests, parent conferences and grade reports. But *something* in that work stimulated you in a way nothing else comes close to doing. Perhaps you miss the pleasure you felt creating learning units, or the joy of introducing students to a

new author, or the collaborative bonds with fellow teachers. These were true enjoyments and now they are gone.

Once you've decompressed sufficiently, you might want to consider doing a career re-design. Unlike many other careerists, retired teachers have the freedom and the financial ability to put together a 'second-act' career, tailored to the life they want. Keep in mind, U.S. pension policies have restrictions on post-retirement income, so keep a close check on those caps.

If you're feeling ready to begin again, here are ten opportunities you should definitely consider.

1. Tutoring

Tutoring is on the rise for multiple reasons. Tough college admissions, distracted students, and school budget constraints are all contributing to the new demand. You can specialize as a tutor for a specific subject, or become a general personal and academic tutor for a student. The subjects most in demand are the core curriculum: history, physics, chemistry, math and English. Foreign language specialties also offer opportunities. This side gig will not require a lot of time, and you can even meet at your local library or coffee shop for convenience.

2. Specialized Test Prep

As a teacher, you already have the experience of helping kids pass exams. Whether it is for ACT or SAT, you can help students ace their exams through your own test prep services. Fall and Spring are the prime times for college-bound kids to take the SAT and ACT aptitude tests. You can also offer prep for a range of other standardized tests such as the GDE, GRE, and LSAT. Public and private schools often pass along tutor referrals to parents, so let the guidance counselors at schools know you're available, and your credentials. You can also post on community bulletin boards, or create your own website to market your business. You might also consider online test prep jobs, arranged through a tutoring website such as [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com), [Kaplan](https://www.kaplan.com) and [SmarThinking.com](https://www.smarthinking.com).

3. College Application Support

Let's face it, understanding how to become a competitive college applicant can be a daunting and confusing task. It can also be a time-consuming process. Your services can include essay writing consultation, assistance choosing the schools that fit the student best, and advice on writing personal statements and scholarship essays. Families will appreciate that you are helping their student put their best foot forward, while still encouraging them to be themselves and pursue their true interests. You can also provide consulting services to parents for financial aid applications.



4. College Adjunct Teaching

One of the biggest trends in higher education today is the increasing use of adjunct faculty over full-timers. This has been bittersweet for both schools, faculty and for students alike, but it's an opportunity for you. While a doctoral degree is required for some positions, professionals with no more than a bachelor's degree qualify for many of these teaching positions. While primary and secondary schools (i.e., K-12) require teaching certifications, colleges and universities do not. College and universities prefer to hire individuals with prior teaching experience, and a strong work ethic and good interpersonal skills go a long way towards qualifying for the gig. The majority of adjunct teaching opportunities exist at two-year institutions such as community colleges. Most of these institutions have a high demand for instructors to teach mathematics, science, and English. There is also an ongoing demand for adjuncts to teach career and technical

education courses. Adjuncts are usually paid a flat fee per course, whether there are ten or thirty students. Check out adjunctprofessorsonline.com and insidehighered.com for lots of great resources and job listings.

5. Career & Life Coach

Coaching has emerged as a distinct field, attracting thousands of people from around the world. As a teacher, you have the knowledge and empathy to be a mentor in different aspects of life including personal happiness, career choice, and a lot more. The abilities to form positive relationships, provide deep listening, and having a broad awareness of life options for clients are important qualifiers for this work. Some school districts even hire retired teachers to mentor new teachers, which can be very gratifying for both parties. Coaches will often specialize by working in the business world or with individuals.

6. Tour Guide

It used to be difficult to set up and run a tour guide business; connecting with customers coming from far away was perhaps the biggest challenge. But you no longer have to convince travel agencies to recommend your services or design and print fancy brochures. Now you can sign up and connect with travelers on one of several online platforms, even if you have no experience. And some guides make up to \$60 per hour showing people the sights. Checkout Shiroube.com and Vayable.com for some well-respected options.

If your local area has some tourist spots, then you can consider becoming a tour guide there. Contact the local tour destination hub or chamber of commerce in that area for leads. You can also use toursbylocals.com to source opportunities.

This gig is especially good for the curious and historically-minded. You can also do research about the history of a place, and create your own tour service experience.

7. Writing & Editing

Once you leave full-time teaching, you have plenty of time to write, and there are hundreds of opportunities to do so out there. You don't have to be a professional writer or editor to find work in this arena, but you do need a clear grasp of sentence structure, spelling, grammar and punctuation. As a former teacher, you have good stories to tell, and wonderful advice that you can share with others. Check out web sites such as

elance.com and guru.com. Even Craigslist.com and linkedin.com will often post writing opportunities. A good way to start building your writer reputation is to find interesting blogs and guest post there. You'll rarely get paid for these but they are a nice, soft-sell approach to becoming visible and expanding your writing portfolio.



8. Educational Consulting

You can use your educational expertise to provide solutions to schools and other training institutions. Start-up costs are low and opportunities are growing. However, starting out as a consultant can be hard, unless you have a network you can tap into right away. Being a consultant can include working with the school board on improving student services, academic concerns, and even working with parents and students in helping them secure a spot at a coveted college or university. Basically, an educational consultant is one who is an expert at the ins and outs of the educational process – and theoretically, someone with more than several decades of experience within the institution should fit that description well. Educational consulting may also include curriculum design and instructional research. As mentioned, it also helps that you have the work connections to add to your already massive and impressive resume!

9. Translator

Translators are in demand today as the world become smaller through globalization, though the field is getting competitive. If you know more than one language, then you

can choose to become a translator during your free time. Language translators are needed in business settings, courtrooms, schools and hospitals. Sometimes language translator jobs involve translating the written word, and those jobs can be done from your personal office or from home.

In the U.S., Spanish is the most in-demand language, but other languages are growing, like Arabic. Software companies also need the help of translators to localize their apps. The best way to gain experience is to start working as an employee in either a translation agency or as an in-house translator for a company in your preferred field. In order to obtain the position, you must have experience, either through an internship and/or through volunteering. You can locate these opportunities at internmatch.com and experience.com.

10. International Schools

Why not combine your education experience with your love of travel by securing part-time teaching opportunities in a country you've always wanted to visit? International schools cover a wide spectrum, but with a successful teaching career behind you, you should aim only for the best schools. Instruction is in English and the curricula are American or British. Asian countries like China and Thailand, as well as many locations in Europe open and the Middle East open their doors for teachers, especially for teachers of English. Sites like the International Educator (tieonline.com) and International Schools Review (internationalschoolsreview.com) provide lots of great advice as well as job listings to give you a sense of what is available.

These are just a few of the opportunities for you to transfer your educational skills and expertise into a new adventure. Take your time, research the ones that strike a chord, and give yourself a chance to explore. One of these may just be the start of something great for you!

Peter Spellman helps people discover their next calling through practical online courses and coaching. Find him at Nextcalling.org.

