



Science

Teacher Background Questionnaire

2005
Grade 8

Science Teacher Questionnaire – Grade 8

Part I: Background, Education, and Training

For several questions on this survey, you are asked to fill in numbers. For these questions, please print the appropriate number in each of the boxes provided. Please print legibly with a No. 2 pencil. Keep all printing within the boxes, and erase any stray marks.

Using one number per box, fill in every box. For example, 95 students would be written as:

0 9 5

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

VB331330

- A No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- B Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- C Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American
- D Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American
- E Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background

2. Which of the following describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals**.

VB331331

- A White
- B Black or African American
- C Asian
- D American Indian or Alaska Native
- E Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Questions 3–4. For the next two questions, include any full-time teaching assignments, part-time teaching assignments, and long-term substitute assignments, but not student teaching.

VB337243

3. Counting this year, how many years have you worked as an elementary or secondary teacher? If less than 4 months total experience, enter “00.”

Years

VB595989

4. Counting this year, how many years have you taught science in grades 6 through 12? If less than 4 months total experience, enter “00.”

Years

VB333654

5. What type of teaching certificate do you hold in the state where you currently teach?

- Ⓐ Regular or standard state certificate or advanced professional certificate → *Skip to Question 7*
- Ⓑ Probationary certificate (the initial certificate issued after satisfying all requirements except the completion of a probationary period) → *Go to Question 6*
- Ⓒ Provisional or other type of certificate given to persons who are still participating in what the state calls an “alternative certification program” → *Go to Question 6*
- Ⓓ Temporary certificate (requires some additional college coursework and/or student teaching before regular certification can be obtained) → *Go to Question 6*
- Ⓔ Emergency certificate or waiver (issued to persons with insufficient teacher preparation who must complete a regular certification program in order to continue teaching) → *Go to Question 6*
- Ⓕ No certificate → *Go to Question 6*



6. Do you hold a currently valid regular or standard certification from a state other than the one in which you are currently teaching?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

7. What is the highest academic degree you hold?

- (A) High-school diploma
- (B) Associate's degree/vocational certification
- (C) Bachelor's degree
- (D) Master's degree
- (E) Education specialist's or professional diploma based on at least one year's work past master's degree
- (F) Doctorate
- (G) Professional degree (e.g., M.D., LL.B., J.D., D.D.S.)

VB333658

8. Did you have a major, minor, or special emphasis in any of the following subjects as part of your **undergraduate** coursework? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes, a major | Yes, a minor or special emphasis | No | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Biology or other life science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595990 |
| b. Physics, chemistry, or other physical science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595991 |
| c. Earth or space science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595992 |
| d. Mathematics or mathematics education | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595993 |
| e. Elementary or secondary education | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595189 |

VB345619

9. Did you have a major, minor, or special emphasis in any of the following subjects as part of your **graduate** coursework? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

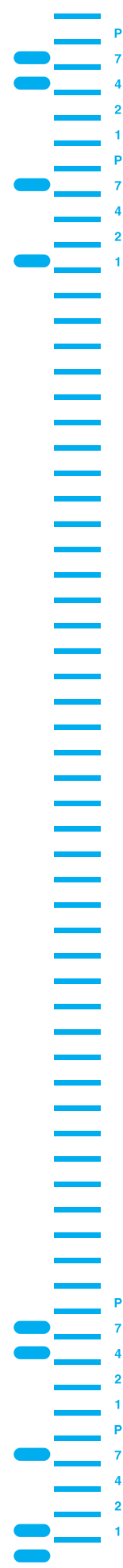
- | | Yes, a major | Yes, a minor or special emphasis | No | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Biology or other life science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595994 |
| b. Physics, chemistry, or other physical science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595995 |
| c. Earth or space science | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595996 |
| d. Mathematics or mathematics education | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595997 |
| e. Elementary or secondary education | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | VB595190 |



VB595998

10. During the last **two years**, did you participate in or lead any of the following professional development activities **related to the teaching of science**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No	
a. College course taken after your first certification	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB595999
b. Workshop or training session	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB596000
c. Conference or professional association meeting	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB596001
d. Observational visit to another school	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598082
e. Mentoring and/or peer observation and coaching as part of a formal arrangement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598083
f. Committee or task force focusing on curriculum, instruction, or student assessment	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598084
g. Regularly scheduled discussion or study group	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598085
h. Teacher collaborative or network (such as one organized by an outside agency or over the Internet)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598086
i. Individual or collaborative research	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598087
j. Independent reading on a regular basis (for example, educational journals, books, or the Internet)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598088
k. Co-teaching/team teaching	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598089
l. Consultation with a subject specialist	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VB598090



VB598091

11. Do you have special leadership responsibilities for **science education** at your school (for example, responsibilities as a mentor teacher, lead teacher, resource specialist, departmental chair, or master teacher)?

A Yes

B No

VB595192

12. Some states and districts have recently initiated school improvement efforts directed at issues such as adequate yearly progress and state accountability standards. These activities are usually led by personnel from outside the particular school. During the last two years have you participated in such activities?

Yes

No

VB595193

a. Within your school

A

B

VB595194

b. As part of a team outside your school

A

B

Part II: Classroom Organization

The following questions ask about the organization of your classroom. If you teach more than one 8th-grade class, please pick a single one of these classes to use as the basis for answering the questions about classroom organization.

VB598092

1. Which best describes your role in teaching **science** to this class? Fill in **one** oval.
 - Ⓐ I do not teach science to this class.
 - Ⓑ I teach all or most subjects, including science.
 - Ⓒ The only subject I teach is science.
 - Ⓓ We team teach, and I have primary responsibility for teaching science.

VB598093

2. About how much time in total do you spend with this class on **science instruction** in a typical week?
 - Ⓐ Less than 1 hour
 - Ⓑ 1–2.9 hours
 - Ⓒ 3–4.9 hours
 - Ⓓ 5–6.9 hours
 - Ⓔ 7 hours or more

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3. Which of the following statements is true about how well your school system provides you with the instructional materials and other resources you need to teach your class?
 - Ⓐ I get all the resources I need.
 - Ⓑ I get most of the resources I need.
 - Ⓒ I get some of the resources I need.
 - Ⓓ I don't get any of the resources I need.