

Claude for Teachers

The free year, explained in plain English before you go back to your building and someone asks you about it in the copy room.

Here is the short version. On July 14, 2026, Anthropic launched a version of Claude built for K-12 teachers, and it costs nothing. Not a trial, not a stripped down chatbot with a paywall waiting behind it. Verified U.S. K-12 educators get the premium tier free, and if you sign up by June 30, 2027, you get a full year of it.

I have been in schools for forty years and I have watched a lot of shiny things get handed to teachers in August. So I went and read the actual terms instead of the press release. Here is what is real, what is limited, and what I would actually do with it.

What you get

The part that separates this from a regular chatbot is the curriculum layer underneath it.

- **Learning Commons connector.** Built with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. It gives Claude the academic standards for all 50 states, plus the smaller competencies underneath each standard and the order students usually learn them. So a lesson plan comes out scaffolded and aligned instead of generic.
- **Evidence-based curricula.** Direct connections to resources including OpenSciEd and Illustrative Mathematics IM v.360.
- **A teaching skills library.** Prebuilt routines grounded in learning science for things teachers said they actually needed, like drafting a lesson or differentiating an activity three ways.
- **Claude Code and Cowork.** The agentic tools. This is the sleeper feature. You can hand off a recurring job, like reading the day's exit tickets and adjusting tomorrow's plan, and it runs on a schedule without you.
- **Nine edtech connectors at launch.** ASSISTments, Brisk Teaching, Canva Education, Coteach, Diffit, Eedi, MagicSchool, Snorkl, and TeachFX.

Who qualifies, and who does not

This is where people are going to get tripped up, so read this part twice. It is for individual U.S. K-12 educators, verified with a school email. Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, librarians, counselors, and other certificated staff are in.

The four limits worth knowing

It is educator only, not a student account. It is U.S. only. It is for individuals, not districts, and the schools and districts version is still listed as coming soon. And if your district already has its own written agreement with Anthropic, that agreement governs your use, not these terms.

How to sign up

Go to claude.com/solutions/teachers and start the educator verification. You will need your school email address, you will select your school, and you will show something that proves you teach. Approval is not instant, so do this on a Tuesday night and not twenty minutes before you want to plan.

The privacy question, because you will be asked

Somebody in your building will ask whether this thing is training itself on student work. The terms say no. Anthropic states it will not train models on your inputs or outputs, meaning anything you type, upload, or connect, and anything Claude sends back. You keep the rights to what you put in, and you own what comes out. The offering runs under a FERPA-aligned K-12 data processing agreement developed with the American Federation of Teachers.

That said, terms are a promise, not a force field. I would still not paste a student's full name next to their disability category into any AI tool, from any company, ever. Strip identifying details out of the habit, not out of fear.

Three things to try in your first week

- **Differentiate something you already teach.** Take a lesson you have taught eight times and ask for three tiers of it, one for students below grade level, one on, one beyond, tied to your state standard. This is the fastest way to see whether the standards layer is doing real work.
- **Feed it your data.** Upload an anonymized set of assessment scores and ask what grouping it would suggest and why. Argue with the answer. That is the point.
- **Set one thing to run without you.** Pick the recurring task that eats your Sunday and schedule it. Even a weekly parent newsletter draft counts.

The honest caveats

Free for a year means free for a year. Anthropic has said it hopes to keep offering it beyond that, which is a hope and not a commitment. Build your workflow so that losing the tool in 2027 would be annoying rather than devastating.

It is also not the only free option, and anyone telling you it is has not been paying attention. ChatGPT for Teachers has been free for verified U.S. K-12 educators since November 2025, and Google has been putting Gemini into Classroom for Workspace for Education accounts. Try more than one and keep the one that fits your brain.

There are also thoughtful critics of all this, educators uneasy about how fast AI companies are moving into K-12 and about curriculum infrastructure being built by tech philanthropy. Fair questions. A free account does not require you to stop asking them.

Confirmed against Anthropic's July 14, 2026 announcement and its Claude for Teachers terms as of August 2026. Programs change. Verify before you tell your staff.

What happens now

You gave me an email to get this, so here is the deal. When something lands in K-12 that teachers are about to get asked about, I read the actual terms and send you the plain-English version. That is it. No funnel, no 47 emails about my journey.

I post these as they break on TikTok at @theprincipalaicoach, usually before the PDF exists. That is the fastest place to catch them.