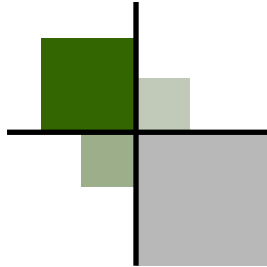


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## The Society Pages



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### Illinois Drug Education Alliance

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### Qualifications of Good Teachers

Even in a time of high unemployment and a strong demand for quality in education, there is a shortage of teachers. Six percent of teachers leave the profession each year. Of newly hired teachers, 20% quit teaching after three years. Therefore, many schools are facing a shortage of teachers.

Bilingual teachers, special education teachers, and teachers with specialized knowledge in math and science are most needed.

Many currently employed teachers are inexperienced. About 30% of them have been teaching less than six years. Studies show that teachers who have alternative certifications could perform as well if not better than experienced, formally trained teachers.



Regardless of which direction the qualifications come from, the truth is that teachers are in high demand. And a quality education is the first step to a child's success.

Garcia, R., Huseman, J. (2009). Alternative certification programs: Meeting the demand for effective teachers. *National Center for Policy Analysis*, No. 675.

### Dress Code in the Public Workplace

It should be that the external appearance of an individual is less important than his or her internal characteristics. This is not always the case. The fact is that external appearance is the first and often most noticed way a person represents an agency. It is the reason why billions of dollars are spent to enhance the appearance.

All businesses have some kind of standard when it

comes to dress code and appearance. This can be written or unwritten. Studies have shown that personal style has great psychological impact on both the wearer and the person interacting with the wearer. It can form a perception of intelligence and confidence.

The way the workers of an agency are dressed can enhance the credibility of that agency. That's why it is important to have stan-

dards of dress. It's the reason that some public agencies have gone so far as to require uniforms.

Personal style is an essential characteristic of individuals and the agencies that employ them. It can ultimately make or break their professionalism and status in the field.

Bowman, J.S., Hooper, H.L. (1991). Dress and grooming regulations in the public service: Standards, legality, and enforcement. *Public Administration Quarterly*, 328-340.

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## A Portrait of Homelessness in the U.S.

Homelessness has been growing in the past 20 to 25 years. There are two reasons for this trend. First, there's a shortage of affordable housing. Second, poverty has increased.

Single homeless adults are more often to be male than female. Household members with children, though, are 65% women and only 35% men. Families with children are among the fastest growing homeless population.

Children also accounted for a big proportion of the homeless population. In 2003, children under 18 years of age accounted for 39% of the homeless population. African-American followed by Cauca-

sian people constitute the largest proportions of the homeless population by race or ethnicity. People experiencing homelessness in rural areas are more likely to be Caucasian. Among homeless men, 40% were veterans. More than a quarter (26%) of homeless persons have a severe mental illness.

Addressing homelessness in the United States should be a priority. It is a problem that crosses gender lines, racial divides, and age gaps. It is found in urban and in rural communities.

Varied efforts have attempted to end homelessness. More jobs, higher wages, and more



affordable housing have been important ones. Services for children are needed because they are becoming a fast growing part of the homeless population.

Who is homeless? (2009). National Coalition for the Homeless. [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).