

What is a Studio Teacher?

What is a Studio Teacher? And what is it like for child actors to go to school on set? For kids working in the entertainment industry, school is often in the form of on-set classrooms run by “studio teachers.” What “studio teacher” means and what child labor laws require varies from state to state. Studio Teachers work in stage theater productions, commercial sets, and films. Studio Teachers are hired and paid by production companies because state law requires them to do so.

Studio teachers are responsible for making sure their students complete a minimum of 15 hours of schoolwork a week (that’s three hours each day), the minimum state requirement for first grade through high school.

The studio teacher’s top priority, always, is their students’ health and well-being.

A big part of a studio teacher’s job is monitoring the safety practices of the production. They also check to make sure the young actors have their paperwork and work permit in order. For preschool age actors, the studio teacher acts mainly as a social worker, monitoring the child’s working conditions and safety closely.

For school-age actors, studio teachers also teach according to their state’s educational standards. Young actors working on a short-term basis (hours or days away from their regular schooling) are expected to bring school work with them to set. Young actors cast as series regulars or who spend substantial periods of their school year on a shooting set may have their entire grade year taught to them by the on-set studio teacher. That’s in addition to any acting classes for kids and teens they might also be taking.

Education and Certification

Studio teachers must have a valid state teacher certification from an accredited college in multiple subject K-12 and single subject 9-12. The 9-12 certification must be in an academic subject such as social studies or math, rather than an elective subject like music or physical education.

Job Overview

Hollywood studio teachers are charged with the education and welfare of the young actors who work in television and film. While these child stars may have a regular school that they attend when not performing, by law, they must have a teacher on the studio set as well.

On-Set vs. Classroom Teaching

The official title for an on-set studio teacher is "studio teacher/welfare worker." Studio teachers are required by law to look after the health and safety of their students. While classroom teachers also care for their students, the role of caretaker is more central to a studio teacher's job. Studio teaching varies from classroom teaching in many other respects. There are more one on one instruction and more interruptions on a Hollywood set, and students may be of different ages than you will experience in a regular classroom.