

TEACHERS · 5 min read · July 21, 2026

Get Claude Free for a Year

If you teach K-12 in the US, here's exactly what it includes, how to get verified, and two real prompts to start with.

If you teach in a US K-12 school, you can get a full year of premium Claude access at no cost. Here's what it actually includes, how to get verified, and what to actually do with it once you're in.

What you actually get

This isn't a stripped-down "free tier." Verified teachers get:

- **Premium Claude access**, the same paid-tier capabilities other users pay for.
- **A library of teaching skills** built specifically for classroom use.
- **Curriculum connections mapped to academic standards** in all 50 states, so what Claude suggests actually lines up with what you're required to teach.
- **Integrations with tools schools already use**, including Canva Education, MagicSchool, Brisk Teaching, Diffit, Eedi, Snorkl, TeachFX, ASSISTments, and Coteach.
- **Claude Code and Cowork features**, useful if you want to automate repeated tasks, not just chat back and forth.
- **Access to an "AI Fluency for PK-12 Teachers" course**, if you want structured training instead of figuring it out on your own.

STEP 1 Check You Qualify

Any verified staff member at a US K-12 school or district qualifies, not just classroom teachers specifically. You need to be 18 or older. This is for individual educators right now, Anthropic has said a separate offering for schools and districts as a whole is coming later.

TIP

Sign up by June 30, 2027 to lock in a full year of free access. That's confirmed directly by Anthropic, not a rumor or a limited-time gimmick, but it also means there's no reason to wait if you already qualify.

STEP 2 Get Verified

Anthropic's own announcement doesn't spell out the exact verification steps, so treat this next part as what's been reported, and double check the current process on Anthropic's site when you go to sign up, since exact flows can change:

1. Go to [Claude for Teachers](#) on Anthropic's site and select "Get verified."
2. You'll go through a verification partner (reported to be Goodstack), using your school email.
3. You'll need to show proof of your teaching status, like a school ID, license, or contract.
4. Verification is typically reported to take under 24 hours, occasionally up to 3 days.
5. You can keep using Claude while you wait, the K-12 educator terms apply once you're verified.
6. Once verified, your account upgrades automatically, and you get a confirmation email.

STEP 3 Put It To Work

Once you're verified, here are two real prompts to start with instead of staring at a blank chat.

Prompt 1: build a differentiated lesson

PROMPT

Act as an experienced teacher and instructional designer.

Build me a lesson plan for [SUBJECT / TOPIC], grade [GRADE LEVEL], [LENGTH] minutes.

Give me:

1. A clear learning objective tied to [STATE] academic standards
2. A short hook to open the lesson
3. The main activity, step by step
4. Three versions of the practice activity: one for students who need more support, one grade-level, one for students who need more challenge
5. A 5-minute exit check to see who actually got it

Keep the language plain. I want to teach this, not just read it.

EXAMPLE OUTPUT

Objective: Students will identify the main idea and two supporting details in a nonfiction passage, tied to the grade-level reading standard.

Hook: Read a two-sentence headline aloud and ask the class what they think the article is actually about, then show them they're already doing the skill.

Support version: passage broken into three labeled chunks with a sentence starter for each answer.

Challenge version: two passages on the same topic with conflicting main ideas to compare.

Prompt 2: analyze your own class data

PROMPT

Act as a data-literate teacher coach.

Here is my class data: [PASTE OR UPLOAD GRADES, QUIZ SCORES, OR AN EXPORT FROM YOUR GRADEBOOK]

Tell me:

1. Which students are trending down, and over what time period
2. Which specific skills or standards the class as a whole is weakest on, based on this data
3. One thing I should adjust in my next two weeks of instruction, based on what you see
4. Which 3-5 students I should check in with first, and why

Keep it specific to what's actually in the data. Do not guess at things the data doesn't show.

TIP

Start with one class period's worth of data, not your whole gradebook, the first time. It's easier to sanity-check whether the read is accurate on a smaller set before trusting it on everything.

What else it's good for

- Differentiating the same lesson for different skill levels in your room without rewriting it from scratch three times.
- Setting up repeated tasks, like weekly prep or recurring parent updates, with Cowork, so you're not rebuilding them by hand every time.
- Using the standards-mapped skills library instead of starting instructional design from a blank page.

TIP

Always review what Claude gives you before it goes in front of students. Treat it like a strong first draft from a student teacher, not a finished lesson, you still know your room better than it does.

The takeaway

This is real premium access, not a limited trial, and it's free for a full year if you're a verified US K-12 educator. The only real cost is the time it takes to get verified, which is usually fast, and the two prompts above are a faster start than opening a blank chat and hoping.

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