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Inside Teacher Pacts

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The National Council on Teacher Quality, based in the District and supported by private foundations, recently launched an online database that allows users to compare teacher pay and other work conditions in the nation's 50 largest school systems.

The database (<http://www.nctq.org/cb>) shines light on contracts and policies crucial to public schools. For example, it shows Maryland teachers must have at least two years in a school system before earning tenure. But the standard in Fairfax County and Virginia Beach is at least three years.

The user-friendly data include answers to more than 300 questions, from how teachers get evaluated to what non-classroom duties they may be asked to perform. Soon the council plans to add information on class size, teacher transfer policies and other subjects. Here's what the data show on salary ranges for fully certified teachers with bachelor's degrees.

MARYLAND

Montgomery County: \$42,176-\$56,526

Prince George's County: \$41,410-\$55,379

Anne Arundel County: \$39,041-N/A*

Baltimore County: \$40,000-\$46,188

Baltimore City: \$41,226-\$62,010

Virginia

Fairfax County: \$42,400-\$75,284

Virginia Beach: \$37,280-\$62,982

Lowest starting salary among the 50 largest systems: Jordan School District, Utah (\$27,859)

Highest starting salary: Long Beach Unified School District, Calif. (\$47,653)

**Maximum salary with bachelor's degree not available.*

SOURCE: National Council on Teacher Quality

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