On September 28, 2020, 24/7 Wall St.¹ published a special report titled “States With the Most Underpaid Teachers.” The report referenced findings by the Economic Policy Institute’s (EPI) report, “Teacher pay penalty dips but persists in 2019” (published on September 17, 2020). EPI’s report found that public school teachers earned approximately 10.2% less than other college-educated workers in 2019.²

For the data found on in the following chart 24/7 Wall St.:

1. Reviewed each state’s teacher pay penalty from EPI’s report³
3. Calculated weighted average annual income of non-teacher college-educated workers in each state using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ employment projections for 2019-2029 for occupations that require at least a bachelor’s degree

According to the Economic Policy Institute’s wage penalty report, Colorado teachers had a 28.8% weekly wage penalty in 2019. This means the on average teachers in Colorado are paid 28.8 percent less in wages and compensation than other college-educated workers. 24/7 Wall St.’s data shows that the difference between the average annual salary of teachers and college-education workers is almost $36,000/annually in Colorado.

¹ 24/7 Wall St. is a Delaware corporation that runs a financial news and opinion company. These articles are then republished by many of the largest news sites, like USA Today, The Atlantic, MSN Marketwatch, and other newspapers.

² Model calculated weekly wage and controlled for benefits including summers.

³ EPI utilized Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey data to calculate regression-adjusted weekly wage to show the pay penalty.
The difference between the annual salary of a HS teacher and of a college-educated worker:

- Colorado: $35,862
- Utah: $19,362
- Arizona: $34,953
- Kansas: $26,771
- New Mexico: $24,998
- Wyoming: $17,362