

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Overview

An estimated 2.3 million early educators work with children under the age of five in out of home settings in the United States. The early care and education workforce is largely female, receives poverty-level wages and lacks the employment benefits afforded to most professions. Early educators need and may be required to attain college credits and degrees. However, early educators are challenged in their pursuit of higher education by the obstacles of money, time, location, dependent care needs, lack of incentives and systemic barriers. In 1990, Child Care Services Association created the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project to address the issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early care and education workforce.

What is T.E.A.C.H.? The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps or T.E.A.C.H. Project is a national, evidence-based strategy that creates access to higher education for early educators working with young children in out of home settings. T.E.A.C.H. provides scholarships to enable early educators to take coursework leading to credentials and degrees by making it possible for them to afford both the time and expense of going to school. At the same time T.E.A.C.H. helps states leverage the financial resources necessary to provide access to higher education and support for the workforce. And it creates new and diverse advocates who are necessary to support sustainable policy changes. From building capacity in higher education to helping individuals attain their educational goals, T.E.A.C.H. can be a change agent in every state.

## T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Components

### Comprehensive Scholarships

Provide support for early educators to access college courses, certificates and degrees in child development or early childhood education resulting in no student debt.

### College Education

Require completion of a specified number of credit hours per contract at a participating college or university coupled with support from T.E.A.C.H. counselors who aid recipients in successfully navigating college processes and finding needed resources to increase core knowledge.

### Compensation

Increase earnings through the provision of a bonus and/or a raise for recipients who complete their education in a prescribed period of time to support economic viability of staff.

### Commitment

Establish a contract between employee, employer and T.E.A.C.H. that requires the recipient to remain in the sponsoring program for a specified period of time (generally a year) after they receive their to reduce staff turnover.

### Counselor

Support each recipient by providing a state-based T.E.A.C.H. Counselor able to assist the student in securing a scholarship, navigating the college processes and monitoring progress and needs.

## Who can access a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship?

Eligibility criteria for access to a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will vary by state and by scholarship model. Most scholarship models require recipients to work a minimum number of hours per week in a program licensed or registered by the state child care facility licensing entity. T.E.A.C.H. Projects are administered by a single non-profit organization licensed to implement the model in a state. Projects are guided by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center to ensure all Projects are accountable, effective and high performing. Each Project develops tailored scholarship models to address the specific needs of their early educators. Projects are guided by common principles, policies and a set of core values that foster the implementation of the model to fidelity and are guided by a rigorous evaluation process.

## Learn More!

- Transforming Lives & Creating Partnerships: [www.childcareservices.org/\\_downloads/FactSheet\\_TEACH\\_OnePgTransforming.pdf](http://www.childcareservices.org/_downloads/FactSheet_TEACH_OnePgTransforming.pdf)
- Center Overview: [http://www.childcareservices.org/\\_downloads/FactSheet\\_TEACH%20Center\\_11\\_13.pdf](http://www.childcareservices.org/_downloads/FactSheet_TEACH%20Center_11_13.pdf)
- Launching T.E.A.C.H. in Your State: [www.childcareservices.org/ps/launching.html](http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/launching.html)
- Annual Reports: For the latest results click: [www.childcareservices.org/ps/teach\\_ta\\_qac.html](http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/teach_ta_qac.html)
- Find a T.E.A.C.H. Project: [http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/help\\_school.html](http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/help_school.html)



A product of the  
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