

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arkansas

FY21 Results

Before first grade, a child may spend more than 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in high-quality early care and education programs in the first five years of life are more likely to be in a highly skilled job or college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today creates a viable workforce for the future and a strong American economy in the long run.

The quality of early care and education a child receives is directly linked to the education and compensation of early educators. In **Arkansas**, many early educators do not have higher education degrees and many earn less than \$12 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover in the workforce. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link increased education with higher compensation and retention. Scholarship recipients and their sponsoring early care and education programs share the cost.

In **Arkansas**, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by **Arkansas Early Childhood Association**. In FY21, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® **Arkansas** helped **69** early education professionals increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **17.4** credits per contract.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in **Arkansas** completed more than **935** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.43**.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$11.23**.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3%**.

Retention (removing turnover caused by COVID-19)

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **97%**.

Demographics

- **59%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **30%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **32%** of recipients were women of color and/or Latinx.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of **7** community colleges or **1** university offering early childhood degree programs in **Arkansas**.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, **100%** said they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers, and **100%** of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone, **7,323** of **Arkansas's** children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Initiative is heralded by experts in the field as a national leader in creating solutions for early childhood education workforce challenges. National outcomes can be found in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® 2020-2021 Annual Program Report: <https://bit.ly/2rIGq8B>. **-ADD NEW LINK__**





T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arkansas FY21 Voices From the Field



“T.E.A.C.H. Arkansas has completely changed my life as an educator. I had previously pursued a college education and ended up skipping classes and ultimately dropping out due to the extreme anxiety in-person classes caused me. I had no motivation for several years until I began working in a Montessori school and was able to obtain a Montessori certification. This made me want to continue my education at a college level, but I suffered from an issue almost every college hopeful has...money. When I heard about the T.E.A.C.H. program, I was overjoyed. I am now pursuing my degree without accumulating debt, still working full time and am associated with a fantastic organization dedicated to helping me reach my goals without the past anxiety.”

– **Makenzie Booker**



“In July 2020 I received an email from my Licensing Specialist about a program called T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arkansas. I looked into the program to see what they had to offer, and it seemed to be a fit for me (I am 48 years old and have been out of school for more than 20 years). The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship offered help with tuition, books, travel and provided a bonus. More than that, T.E.A.C.H. has provided me with needed guidance. I have been able to go to college and still remain a good wife and mother. With T.E.A.C.H, I still run my business and take care of my family. So far with the help of the T.E.A.C.H. Arkansas program, I have been able to complete three semesters with good grades. I’m on my fourth semester and looking forward to it!”

– **Cynthia Martin**

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