

## FY22 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 \$15 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, the **Arkansas Early Childhood Association** administers the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program. In FY22, the program helped **170** early education professionals increase their education. T.E.A.C.H. recipients show powerful dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national average. This year alone, **8,116** of Arkansas's children were cared for in settings who participated in T.E.A.C.H.

### Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **16.1** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Arkansas completed more than **1,865** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.28**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.21**.

### Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$12.75**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **12.9%**.

### Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **96%**.

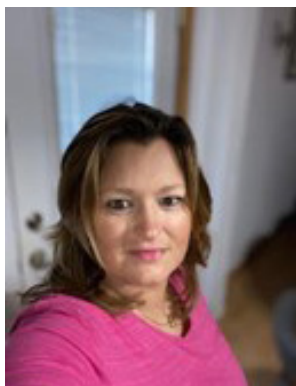
### Demographics

- **70.6%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **35.9%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **31.8%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx, and an overwhelming majority of all recipients were women.
- Recipients attended one of **10** community colleges or **5** universities offering early childhood degree programs in Arkansas.

### Personal Impact

- In a survey of recipients, **98%** said they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers, and **95%** of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program 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® 2021-2022 Annual National Program Report.



“I have always wanted a career in education and knew I would need to get my degree in early childhood education to meet my professional goals. With my responsibilities of my family, I knew my finances would never allow me to go back to school so naturally I was very excited to come across the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arkansas program. The opportunity to attend school to accomplish my biggest professional goal and still keeping my teaching job is just amazing. Going back to school is tough, especially with a full-time job. But, with the support I receive from the T.E.A.C.H. program, I am doing it. They get how hard it is for us to study and work at the same time. One of the best parts of this story is that I am serving as an example to my own children that it is never too late to accomplish your goals. With hard work you can accomplish anything. This is a great program that I would recommend to anyone looking to get their early childhood education.”

**– Renee Becker, T.E.A.C.H. Recipient**

“I went back to school in January 2020 to get my associate degree using the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship, and I graduated this year maintaining a 4.0! What was so amazing about my educational journey is the knowledge I was able to bring back into my pre-K classroom at the center. I learned so much about curriculum and how to perform assessments and child observations. I added all of my course books to the center resource library to help other teachers. Now that I have finished, I can share everything I have learned with other staff. One of them was so interested, she decided to apply for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship and is now attending the same degree program I did. And I have been promoted to a director position. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is a wonderful opportunity, and I would not have been able to do any of this without it.”

**– Natasha Strozier, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate**



**Arkansas Early Childhood Association**  
**PO Box 4291**  
**Fayetteville, AR 727025**  
**501-680-1930**  
[arkansasearlychildhood.org](http://arkansasearlychildhood.org)