

TEACH Early Childhood® Arkansas

FY24 RESULTS

From birth to age eight a child's brain is developing faster than at any other time in their life. The experiences a child has in those first eight years provide a foundation for their future. Children who receive high quality early learning experiences are more likely to live healthier lives, earn higher wages and contribute to society.



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 TEACH 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 TEACH 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, **Arkansas Early Childhood Association** administers the TEACH Early Childhood® Program. In FY24, the program helped **481** early education professionals increase their education. TEACH recipients show powerful dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national average. This year alone, **20,734** of Arkansas's children were cared for in settings who participated in TEACH.

EDUCATION

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **16.73** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **21.33** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Arkansas completed more than **7,709** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.37**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.54**.

COMPENSATION

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a TEACH scholarship was **\$14.40**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **12%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **11.63%**.

RETENTION

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **92.52%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **95.35%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **64.7%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **35.6%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **31.2%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx, and an overwhelming majority of all recipients were women.
- Recipients attended one of **12** community colleges or **9** universities offering early childhood degree programs in Arkansas.

PERSONAL IMPACT

- In a survey of recipients, **98%** said they would recommend TEACH to their peers, and **98%** of their employers would recommend TEACH.

The TEACH 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 TEACH Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® 2023-2024 Annual National Program Report.

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FY24 VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Sarah Emilee Key,
TEACH Scholar

I found out that I was pregnant right after I graduated High School. I attempted a semester of college but dropped out. I became convinced I wouldn't be able to go to school and I just had to come to terms with that. I allowed the stereotype of being a teen mom to hinder me from reaching my full potential. After a couple of years passed, the TEACH Early Childhood program began in Arkansas. I will never forget my mom (who was also my boss) giving me the scholarship application and telling me to fill it out. LOL. I was one of the first teachers in Arkansas to be accepted for this scholarship. Since then, I have completed my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development/Organizational Leadership. I plan to begin my master's degree in early childhood this fall. The TEACH Early Childhood scholarship has opened doors for me that I never imagined I would be walking through. I am now married with two beautiful girls and could not be more thankful for this opportunity. It has not only taught me so much about the early childhood field but so much about myself. Thank you, TEACH Early Childhood Arkansas!



Angela Calderera,
TEACH Scholar

I am so proud to be a TEACH Early Childhood scholarship recipient. I have been in the Early Childhood Education field for 30 years. I applied for the TEACH scholarship so I could continue my growth, professional development and make connections in the early childhood field. This career choice is my passion and devotion and I have always had the desire to be a lifelong learner. So, at the age of 51, I decided to continue on a professional path to obtain a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. With the TEACH Early Childhood scholarship, I believe I am making a difference for the children, families and colleagues that I serve in my community. Thank you, TEACH Arkansas, for allowing me to continue in my professional journey in the Early Childhood Educational field