

TEACH Early Childhood® ARKANSAS Priority (Waitlist) Matrix

Priority Level	Credentials Included	Why?	Justification Required on Application
1 Highest	Certificate of Proficiency (CDA) Technical Certificate	These credentials build the foundation of the early childhood career pathway and are attainable for new educators in 2-3 semesters. They can lead to the CDA credential to help address shortages of credentialed teachers in high-need counties and infant/toddler classrooms.	No
2 High	Associate Degree	The ECE associate degree supports long-term workforce development by building a qualified pipeline. The AS/AAS is essential for educators seeking lead teacher roles or preparing for the next step in their career pathway.	No
3 Mid Priority	Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's degrees are critical for pre-K lead teacher roles and career advancement. Public institutions offer cost effective access, allowing TEACH to support more students per dollar.	Yes Applicants must explain how the BA/BS degree fits into their career pathway such as: -Lead teacher opening -Employer expectation or requirement -Documented need for BA/BS teachers in area
4 Lower	Master's Degree	Master's programs support leadership development, but they have more limited direct classroom impact relative to undergraduate pathways. TEACH funds master's degrees at a reduced scholarship percentage, so approval is more limited and subject to funding and capacity.	Yes Applicants must explain how the degree is necessary for their role or advancement in Arkansas's ECE system. Usually limited to leadership.
5 Lowest	Arkansas Private College (e.g., Harding, Shorter)	TEACH prioritizes Arkansas public institutions to ensure equitable access and cost-effective use of funds. Private colleges have significantly higher tuition, reducing the number of scholarships TEACH can support. These scholarships are approved on a case-by-case basis and only if funding and capacity are available. The scholarship is a 25% tuition award.	Yes Applicants must explain why a private college is necessary compared to other offerings at Arkansas public institutions.

Note: The Early Childhood Pre-K Academy is a short-term alternative pathway to early childhood licensure which begins in the summer term. This program will utilize a separate waitlist, and those applicants will be approved on a case-by-case basis subject to funding and capacity.