



Certificate & Associate Degree Scholarship + Registered Apprenticeship 2026-27 Overview

Earn your degree while you work—with mentoring, wage increases, and financial support.

Educator Eligibility

- Employed in an eligible position in a licensed child care center for 90 days.
- Enrolled in a TEACH-approved ECE certificate or associate degree program
- Willingness to participate in regular mentor visits and make progress toward required on-the-job training hours and professional goals.

Employer Eligibility

- Be a licensed child care center in good standing with Arkansas Child Care Licensing
- Contribute a portion of tuition and book costs
- Provide scholars with release time (up to 144 hours per semester), reimbursed by TEACH, including two monthly on-site mentor visits and one monthly virtual check-in

How the Apprentice Scholarship Works

	TEACH Early Childhood	Educator	Employer
Tuition	90%	5%	5%
Books	90%	5%	5%
Travel Stipend	\$200 per semester		N/A
Release Time	Reimburse employer \$17/hour for up to 144 hours of release time per semester	(1) Complete at least 9 credit hours per year with passing grades as determined by school.	Provide paid release time (up to 144 hours per semester)
Apprentice Incentive (earned on completion)	First Semester: \$300 Apprenticeship Year: \$700 Additional Year of Employment: \$500		Provide 4% or \$0.50/hour wage increase on completion of each apprenticeship year (COLA's not included)
ECE Library	Up to \$500 in books for personal ECE library		
Classroom Materials	Up to \$1,500 in approved classroom materials	(2) Make progress towards apprenticeship hours.	
One-time Technology	Reimburse up to \$700 for technology purchase		N/A
CDA fee reimbursement (TEACH apprentices enrolled in for-credit ECE programs)	100% of CDA fee reimbursed for apprentices (optional)	(3) Demonstrate mastery of required competency areas.	
Employer Stipend	\$1,500 per year for each apprentice making adequate progress in the program		Submit work hours monthly and allow two on-site mentor visits per month and one virtual check-in

Click [here](#) to get a list of approved colleges. Email or call 501 680 1930 for an application.

TEACH Early Childhood® ARKANSAS
Arkansas Early Childhood Association
P.O. Box 4291 Fayetteville, AR 72702-4291
teach@arkansasearlychildhood.org
501-680-1930

