

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program?

The T.E.A.C.H. program links training, compensation, and a commitment to improving the quality of early childhood care and education experiences for young children and their families. T.E.A.C.H. provides scholarships for early childhood educators to work toward earning an Associate, Bachelor's or Master's degree in early childhood, a Florida Staff or Director Credential, taking the National CDA Assessment, and pursuing credential renewals. Participation with T.E.A.C.H. requires a partnership of sharing expenses that includes the sponsoring program (child care or after school center or family child care home), the early educator, and the scholarship program.

## What commitments are sponsoring early childhood programs required to make?

In most scholarship models, early childhood programs agree to sponsor a scholar by contributing a portion of the cost of tuition (10%) and providing the scholar 3 hours of paid release time each week while classes are in session. T.E.A.C.H. reimburses the early childhood program for these 3 hours per week at a reimbursement rate of FL minimum wage + \$2.00 per hour. Upon completion of the scholarship, the sponsoring program is responsible for awarding the scholar a bonus or raise. T.E.A.C.H. will also reward the scholar a bonus based upon their contract.

## What commitments are T.E.A.C.H. scholars required to make?

Scholars must attend classes, successfully complete courses, and pay 10% of the cost of tuition and books. In addition, scholars agree to remain in the sponsoring center or family child care home for a specific period of time following the completion of their contract (typically one year).

## What support does the T.E.A.C.H. program provide?

T.E.A.C.H. provides scholars with 80% of cost of tuition, 90% reimbursement for the cost of books, a 90% reimbursement (*up to \$500*) for a new computer or laptop, as well as an access stipend awarded each semester. The access stipend can be used for any expense the scholar incurs during the scholarship contract. Additionally, T.E.A.C.H. Counselors and Processing Specialists are available to answer questions and provide technical assistance to early educators, directors, and owners.

## Who is eligible for a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship?

Early childhood educators, directors, owners, and family child care providers may be eligible for a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship if they meet specific criteria. Applicants must be Florida residents, have earned a high school diploma or GED, and work in a licensed, license-exempt, or registered program. Within eligible programs, applicants must work a minimum of 20 hours per week with a birth through Pre-K population, or if in an after school program, for a minimum of 520 hours per year. Applicants must also have the support and sponsorship of their employer.

## When are the application deadlines for T.E.A.C.H.?

The T.E.A.C.H. fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Scholarship applications must be submitted before the close of the fiscal year in which the coursework was initiated. T.E.A.C.H. cannot retroactively reimburse or pay expenses if an application is submitted outside of this deadline.

## How do I obtain a T.E.A.C.H. application?

Early educators may obtain and complete a scholarship application online at [teach-fl.com](http://teach-fl.com). The online application has easy to follow instructions and includes the list of materials needed to complete the application.

## How do I find a T.E.A.C.H. eligible training, credentialing, or degree program?

Visit [teach-fl.com](http://teach-fl.com) to access the ECE Training Directory. This directory is a valuable electronic resource that allows early educators to search for training organizations, institutions, colleges, and universities currently working with T.E.A.C.H. Many of these participating programs offer courses in both face-to-face and online formats.

## How can I get more information about T.E.A.C.H.?

**Web:** [teach-fl.com](http://teach-fl.com)

**Toll Free:** 877-FL-TEACH (877-358-3224)

**Telephone:** (850) 487-6300

**Email:** [teachquestions@thechildrensforum.com](mailto:teachquestions@thechildrensforum.com)

