

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska

## FY21 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 **Nebraska**, 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 **Nebraska**, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by **Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children**. In FY21, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® **Nebraska** helped **131** early education professionals increase their education.

### Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **17.7** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **20.4** credits per contract.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in **Nebraska** completed more than **1,703** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.35**.
- The average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.63**.

### Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$13.03**.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **8%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **9%**.

### Retention (removing turnover caused by COVID-19)

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **95%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **98%**.

### Demographics

- **78%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **56%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **33%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of **8** community colleges or **5** universities offering early childhood degree programs in **Nebraska**.

### Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, **100%** said they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers, and **95%** of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone, **11,717** of **Nebraska's** children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Initiative 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® 2020-2021 [Annual Program Report](#).





## T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska FY21 Voices From the Field



Zeneya (Coleman) Bunn was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Fall 2015 term for an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southeast Community College (SCC) in Lincoln. She completed 107.5 credits at SCC. After graduating from SCC at the end of the Winter 2018 term, Zeneya began work on her bachelor's degree at University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). She was awarded a new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in spring 2020 at UNK. She completed 31 credits while working full time as a teacher in a child care program in Lincoln, NE. Zeneya graduated from UNK at the end of the Fall 2020 term with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Zeneya says, "I have been with the T.E.A.C.H program since 2015! I started T.E.A.C.H. at the first child care center I worked at while attending Southeast Community College-Lincoln majoring in Early Childhood Education-Inclusive. Unfortunately, only a few months into the program, the child care center I was at got shut down. I immediately transferred to another child care center where I was able to get right back on the T.E.A.C.H. program with no issues! T.E.A.C.H allowed me to pursue the degree I wanted with so much extra help and support. I was able to go through my associate degree without having to worry about tuition, books, and having enough time to do homework or complete my practicums with those four hours of homework time.

"After completing my associate degree, I was told by my center that they would not allow me to complete my bachelor's degree through T.E.A.C.H. This devastated me, as I wanted to continue my education but could not do it without a little extra support from the T.E.A.C.H. program. I did end up applying at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and started to work on my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education-Inclusive until my contract was up, and I was able to find another sponsoring center that would support my education. I ended up finding a center that would allow me to start back on T.E.A.C.H and even filled out the paperwork with me the day I was hired! I started working toward my bachelor's degree and with the help of the T.E.A.C.H program, I was able to make it through student teaching during the pandemic with the living stipend they offer to those who are student teaching.

"I do not think I would have reached these educational goals without the T.E.A.C.H. program and I am always telling others who are in school to look into it because of how much it helped me through college! I am now working toward my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction at Peru State College! I want to give a huge thank you to everyone involved in T.E.A.C.H. for making my goals possible and a big thank you to Julie Warford for being with me every step of the way! Best of luck to everyone on the T.E.A.C.H. program. Stay safe and stay educated!"

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[nebraskaaec.org/teach-early-childhoodreg.html](https://nebraskaaec.org/teach-early-childhoodreg.html)