

FY20 Results

Before 1st 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 ensures 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 \$12 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals in an effort to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover in the early education 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 FY20, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska helped 136 early education professionals increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of 19.1 credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of 20.45 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in Nebraska completed more than 1,825 credit hours last year.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was 3.47; the average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on a bachelor's degree was 3.69.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was \$12.60.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was 7.6%.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was 11%.

Retention

- Average retention rate (removing turnover caused by COVID-19) was 95% for associate degree scholarship recipients and was 100% for bachelor's degree scholarship recipients.

Demographics

- 80% of recipients worked with 3-5 year old children.
- 56% of recipients worked with children under 3.
- 28.7% of recipients were women of color and/or Hispanic origin.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of the eight different community colleges or five universities offering early childhood degree programs in Nebraska.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, 99% indicated they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers and 97% 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 that are far less than the national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone, 13,415 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 WAGE\$® 2019-2020 Annual Program Report at tinyurl.com/y6ysy3n6.

FY20 Voices from the Field

Kahre Brueggemann graduated Magna Cum Laude at the end of the spring 2020 term with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). Kahre was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the summer 2018 term. She completed 70.5 credits while working full time as an Early Head Start Assistant Teacher at a child care program in Omaha. She is also the mother of two children.



“In 2016, I graduated with my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. I not only had a life-changing degree under my belt, but a ton of student debt to go with it (over \$20,000). I thought this was the end of the educational path for me; I’m not only a full-time employee at a Head Start program, but I am also the mother of two children, one of whom has special needs. I did not believe that I had the time, or especially, the financial ability to go any further. The textbooks alone would not have been feasible, much less tuition and any other related expenses.

“Then, a good friend and co-worker of mine, who was enrolled in the T.E.A.C.H. program encouraged me to look into the scholarship. I did, and I can honestly say it was one of the smartest decisions that I have ever made. By enrolling in the T.E.A.C.H. program, I was able to conquer my lifetime goal of earning my bachelor’s degree. I also did not acquire any more student debt, and through this program, I was able to have time off from work to study. I even graduated Magna Cum Laude!

“Recently, I was promoted to Lead Teacher with Educare of Omaha in the Early Head Start program. I can now not only better support my own family, but I also have the knowledge and experience to be an advocate for the young children in my classroom and their families, too.

“I look forward to a long future of working in the early childhood field, all thanks to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska!”

-Kahre Brueggemann, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children
650 J Street, Suite 23
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-5658
nebraskaaeyc.org/teach-early-childhoodreg.html

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