



# Spring 2024 Newsletter

## Nebraska's New Voter ID Law

Your vote matters!

The first Nebraska election requiring voter ID will be the statewide primary on May 14th, 2024.

In 2022, Nebraska voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring voter ID. In June 2023, the governor signed into law LB514, the bill putting voter ID into effect.

### What can you use to vote?

Your ID must have your name and photo. It can be expired.

**What if I forget my ID?** You will fill out a provisional ballot. For your ballot to count, you will need to present a valid photo ID to your county election office on or before the

Tuesday after the election.

### What if I can't afford an ID?

You can get a free state ID for voting from the DMV. If you were born in Nebraska and need your birth certificate to get a free state ID, you can get a free certified copy of your birth certificate from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. A birth certificate is not a valid form of photo ID.

**What if I can't get an ID?** If you have a reasonable impediment, you can complete a certification instead of presenting valid photo ID. Reasonable impediments are: 1.) Inability to obtain a valid ID due to disability or illness, 2.)

Lack of birth certificate or other required documents, and 3.) Religious objection to being photographed.

Contact your county election office or the Secretary of State's Office for more information at 402-471-2555, voterid.nebraska.gov, and/or sos.elect@nebraska.gov.



## Online Payment Portal

We finally have an online payment portal!

You can find it on our website, [www.nebraskaaeyc.org](http://www.nebraskaaeyc.org).

At the top of the home page, scroll to the right to find, "Payments".

There are two options: "Donate" and "Online Payment Portal".

To pay your invoice, click on "Online Payment Portal" and use the links to enter our online payment portal.

Please type your Invoice # under "Additional Information" section.

If you do not have this, enter "0000".

ACH Payments can be made free of charge from your bank account.

A 3% convenience fee is applied if paying with a credit/debit card.

Thank you!



Please help us spread the word about T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska!

Our information can be found in the "Education" section of the Nebraska AEYC website, [www.nebraskaaeyc.org](http://www.nebraskaaeyc.org).

Thank you for your support!

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**Thank you to those of you that participated in our annual T.E.A.C.H. survey. All results have been compiled and can be found in the T.E.A.C.H. section of our website, [www.nebraskaaeyc.org](http://www.nebraskaaeyc.org). I wanted to use this newsletter to address some of your comments. Please READ CAREFULLY and let me know if you have any questions!**

3% found their sponsoring program to be not supportive.

*"Hard to get time during week w/ no extra staff."*

*"Do not receive support from the director currently."*

*"Don't really say much to me about it."*

*"Hard to get the four hours every week. They make us do it during nap if we are short staffed and that doesn't work with you have 19 and they don't all sleep."*

Most of these comments are about not getting release time. We understand that release time is the most important aspect of the scholarship for recipients, but it can also be the most difficult for sponsoring programs. T.E.A.C.H. can't dictate to programs how and when to offer release time. My best advice for you is to sit down with your program and work together to in order to meet your need for paid time off to study, but to also meet their need to meet ratios. Also, release time can only apply if you aren't counted in ratio, so getting release time during nap doesn't work. I will remind programs of this.

2% somewhat disagreed that T.E.A.C.H. staff were helpful.

*"I think they forget for us it is a first experience, no clear guidance on transcript/classes/contract options."*

*"The sub amount is inadequate. I was told to ask the college for information. I feel T.E.A.C.H. staff should be educated to help with the big process and guide us through, instead of passing us off."*

We know 100% that using the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship could be a first-time college experience for some of our recipients. But, we still don't know what we don't know. Each participant is different, so what one person needs won't apply to another. Please let me know if you personally need further assistance with anything. However, the colleges are the experts on what they offer. They know what classes you will need to complete your coursework, for instance. We do our best to give you a direct line of contact to someone at your college to help you get the answers you need.

As for the sub amount, we do have a budget that we have to follow and if we offer more funds for one thing, that will mean less money for others. If we ever receive more funding, we could entertain raising that amount.

98% would recommend T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to other people working in child care

*"Downfall can be being unsure about changes to job/future w/family. Hard to plan future."*

*"I do explain how big of a commitment it is."*

We state in the application, in the award call, and in the contract that the most serious aspect of this scholarship is your commitment period after you are done with your coursework. If you have any doubt in working for your sponsoring program during your coursework and for at least 12-18 months after, you will want to wait to use this scholarship until you have found a program you are confident in.

*"But I would feel that I would have to provide beginning assistance to guide them through to not be stressed out."*

In your award packet, we do provide a flow chart to help you get started as a new recipient. We are always available to help answer specific questions as well that apply to your situation.

*"For those without financial aid or obtaining 2nd degree."*

You can use this scholarship, even if you do have financial aid. We require all T.E.A.C.H. recipients to apply for financial aid to see if they qualify for anything they don't have to pay back. Yes, due to the income in this field, many students receive other financial aid. However, students can use both at the same time. In fact, students can actually make money while on this scholarship and receiving financial aid. How it works: Financial aid pays out first and whatever it doesn't cover, T.E.A.C.H. will. If it covers everything, students receive their travel stipend, thus making \$75-\$95, depending on if they are taking classes on the quarter or semester system. They also get bonuses after they complete each contract. If students know they are going on to get their bachelor's degree, they could just use T.E.A.C.H. to pay for their associate degree and save their financial aid for their bachelor's degree and use both at that time, too.

*"Tell them you need extra money set aside to pay your portion."*

The more credits you take, the more money it costs. We cover 80% of the cost of tuition and books, your program is responsible for 10%, and you are responsible for the last 10%. Most of the time, your travel stipend will cover this amount. However, if you take more than one class at a time, that amount increases, and you could end up with an invoice.

[How can T.E.A.C.H. be more helpful to you?](#)

*"Maybe more clarity in benefits offered."*

*"The more information about things we need to do the better."*

*"More specific information. I do not know about time off and sub release and when/how I use it."*

Our website contains quite a bit of information, including a video of myself explaining the scholarship. We also send an award packet to you with information as well. I'm always available to answer any questions, too, via email or phone. Additionally, we will be creating a "Participant Policy and Procedure Handbook" to help current and future recipients with general information.

*"Extend to a master's program!"*

We do have a waiting list for individuals interested in having a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship for master's degree coursework that we can eventually take to our funder.

*"Teach time reimbursement if not given?"*

*"Increase sub payments."*

*"Have more incentives during the program."*

*"Increase time off so I can take more classes face to face."*

We wish we could offer more money for things like this, but we will need more funding in order to do this. When we eventually do, we will look into our current offerings.

*"Remember we are balancing this with full-time work. Answering questions, don't say ask UNK / ask SCC. Help us make a plan to finish by balancing the multiple schools."*

This scholarship is designed for full time employees, part time students. We are very aware of this and encourage students to start with just one class to see how school will fit into their work and personal life. However, you should also have an advisor at your college to help you establish your coursework plan, such as what classes you will take and when.

*"Advocate for college degree for Family Home Child Care. Advocate for our experience to be equivalent to practicums or for observe to come watch us in our programs to count for practicum."*

We are always doing this and will continue to do so. Make sure you are using your voice as well! Lastly, I shared your comments about how the college/university can be more helpful to you with our college representatives on our Advisory Team. Again, make sure you use your voice, too!



## Upcoming Events

*\*Please note  
when Julie will be  
out of the office  
and plan  
accordingly!\**

April 8th-12th: Julie Out Of The Office  
(T.E.A.C.H. Conference in North Carolina)

April 26th: Arbor Day (Office Closed)

May 6th-13th: Julie Limited Availability  
(Daughter's High School Graduation)

May 17th-24th: Julie Out Of The Office  
(Family Vacation)

May 27th: Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June 19th: Juneteenth (Office Closed)

June 25th-26th: Julie Out Of The Office  
(Nebraska Young Child Institute)

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

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is a  
licensed program of Child Care  
Services Association.



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## 20 Questions

This month's section of "20 Questions" features Angela from Lincoln County! She is currently a family child care provider in North Platte. She has been on a T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship since the Spring 2021 term and plans to graduate this May.

1. **Where were you born?** North Platte, NE
2. **What is something you are proud of?** Being a successful single mother
3. **What is something you're afraid of?** Snakes
4. **What are your favorite TV shows?** Friends and Grey's Anatomy
5. **What's your least favorite subject in**

6. **Do you have any pets?** A dog—Blaze Barker Blaesi or B3
7. **Do you have any brothers or sisters?** Two little brothers
8. **What is your favorite season?** Autumn
9. **Do you have a favorite holiday?** New Year's
10. **What's your favorite food?** Mac & Cheese—The blue box
11. **What do you like to do in your free time?** Shop or sleep
12. **Would you rather live in a**

**place that was always hot or a place that was always cold?** Hot, as long as there was a pool

13. **What is something you wish you could do?** Fly
14. **If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?** Strong, determined, and trustworthy
15. **What is your favorite book?** The Traveler's Gift
16. **What's one place you really want to travel to?** Bora Bora
17. **Do you play, or have you played, an instrument?** Nope

18. **If I weren't a teacher, I'd be...** A mom.
19. **What is your favorite color?** Glitter
20. **Do you prefer writing in pen or pencil?** Pen

Thank you, Angela, for your responses! If you would like to participate, please send me your responses to these 20 questions or create 20 questions of your own!