

FY22 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, the **Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children** administers the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program. In FY22, the program helped **164** early education professionals increase their education. T.E.A.C.H. recipients show powerful dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national average. This year alone, **8,325** of Nebraska's children were cared for in settings who participated in T.E.A.C.H.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **16.44** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **19.32** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Nebraska completed more than **1,389** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.27**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.56**.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$13.24**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **8.54%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **6.7%**.

Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **91.1%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **96.9%**.

Demographics

- **80.5%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **61%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **28%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx, and an overwhelming majority of all recipients were women.
- Recipients attended one of **8** community colleges or **5** universities offering early childhood degree programs in Nebraska.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of recipients, **99%** said they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers, and **97%** of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program 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® 2021-2022 Annual National Program Report.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska
FY22 Voices From the Field



Sidney Wood graduated summa cum laude at the end of the Spring 2022 term with her Bachelor of Arts in Education degree with an Inclusive Endorsement in Early Childhood from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Sidney was first awarded a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship in the Spring 2019 term. She completed 88 credits while working full time as an assistant teacher at a public school pre-k program in Scotia, NE.



Sidney said, “Three years ago, I found myself waitressing at my local Pub & Grill. As I was taking a customer’s order, she asked me what my plan was after graduating from Central Community College. I explained to her that I would continue to be a paraprofessional at our public school as I had no interest in furthering my education in fear of student debt. She said, ‘You should apply for the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. You would be a great candidate.’ I hurried home after my shift, did some research and started filling out the application immediately! I had never looked forward to checking the mail, but let’s just say I checked it every day for the next three weeks. On the third week, I received my acceptance letter and that is the day that truly changed my life forever. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has made it possible for me to pursue my passion in education. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to walk across the stage at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The program assisted me with 80% tuition and books, provided study hours within my work schedule and always had the door open for a helping hand. I cannot thank this program enough and because of them, I will be teaching at Central Valley for the next two years!”

– Sidney Wood, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate

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nebraskaaeyc.org/teach-early-childhoodreg.html