

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska

FY23 Results

From birth to age eight a child's brain is developing faster than at any other time in their life. The experiences a child has in those first eight years provide a foundation for their future. Children who receive high quality early learning experiences are more likely to live healthier lives, earn higher wages and contribute to society.

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 FY23, the program helped **122** 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, **6,243** 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 **16.5** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **18.08** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Nebraska completed more than **1,366** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.22**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.31**.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$14.47**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **9.5%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **12.2%**.

Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **83%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **90.4%**.

Demographics

- **77%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **60.7%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **27.9%** 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 **95%** 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 WAGE\$® 2022-2023 Annual National Program Report.





T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska FY23 Voices From the Field



Chris Yates graduated with a 4.0 and her Inclusive Endorsement in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). As a T.E.A.C.H. recipient, she was first awarded a bachelor's degree gap scholarship model and then transitioned into the bachelor's degree scholarship model. Chrisy completed 79 credits on the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship and completed her coursework as a single mom to four children and while working more than full time as a family child care provider in O'Neill, NE.

Chrisy says, "I have been an in-home provider for 13+ years. I love working with children, but as my children got older, I knew that my passion lay in the preschool and early school-age years. Through several trainings, I had been introduced to the T.E.A.C.H. program, but hadn't thought it was the right time in my life to go back to school. Three years ago was the right time! I contacted Julie and she has always been so helpful working with me through applications and questions that I have had. I was accepted and began coursework to obtain my Early Childhood Education

Teaching Certificate. I studied at NECC (Northeast Community College) and UNK. Both schools were very helpful and worked with T.E.A.C.H. to ensure that my schooling was a success. Without T.E.A.C.H., I would never have been able to afford this. Since I already held a bachelor's degree, I was considered a grad student working towards certification. T.E.A.C.H.'s financial support allowed me to hire subs so that I could have study time, as I was still fully employed as a provider during the entire process. When student teaching came around, T.E.A.C.H. helped me cover the cost of subs so that I could finalize my certification while keeping my child care program open full time. I never dreamed that I would be able to continue to work full time as a provider, be a single mom of four (three of which are teenage boys), and be able to obtain my teaching certificate! Without T.E.A.C.H., I wouldn't have even considered the opportunity. I now have my teaching certificate and am so excited to be opening up my own official preschool serving 3+ ages. I know there is a learning curve now to prove myself as an educator and not just a provider, but T.E.A.C.H. has helped arm me for this challenge. Through my experience, I have not only obtained my teaching certificate, I have obtained more confidence in my position as a child care provider and in myself as an individual. I feel equipped and valued as I am preparing my lesson plans for the fall and setting up my preschool. Instead of feeling burnt out, as I was shortly before going back to school, I feel excited and have a spark that was revived by the opportunities now available to me. I can honestly say without the support of T.E.A.C.H., both financially and emotionally, I would have closed up my in-home child care program and pursued a profession outside of the home with my first bachelor's degree in business."

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