

TEACH Early Childhood® Nebraska

FY24 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 TEACH 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 TEACH 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, **Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children** administers the TEACH Early Childhood® Program. In FY24, the program helped **117** early education professionals increase their education. TEACH recipients show powerful dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national average. This year alone, **5,324** of Nebraska's children were cared for in settings who participated in TEACH.

EDUCATION

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **18.52** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **17.98** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Nebraska completed more than **1,506.5** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.51**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.51**.

COMPENSATION

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a TEACH scholarship was **\$16.81**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **11.58%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **10.93%**.

RETENTION

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **87%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **90%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **82.1%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **59%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **29.9%** 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, **98%** said they would recommend TEACH to their peers, and **97%** of their employers would recommend TEACH.

The TEACH 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 TEACH Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® 2023-2024 Annual National Program Report.

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FY24 VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Zoe Sutherland,
TEACH Graduate

Zoe Sutherland graduated at the end of the spring 2024 term with her Associate of Applied Science Degree in General Studies with an Emphasis in Early Childhood Education from Metropolitan Community College (Metro) in Omaha. She was first awarded an Associate Degree scholarship in the winter 2019 term. Zoe completed 75 credits and completed her coursework while working full time as an assistant director for a child care program in Omaha.

Zoe says, “The TEACH scholarship has meant more to me than I can really put in words, but I am going to try my best. During my sophomore year of high school, I started working part time at a child development center. Through getting this experience at such a young age, I found myself really enjoying working with kids. When I graduated high school, the child development center I was at was really struggling on needing full time staff. With me just getting out of high school, and not fully sure where I wanted to go to college, I took this as an opportunity to get more experience and save more money by switching to full time at my center. While this was amazing for a lot of reasons, this also really took me a step back from continuing my education. Every time I attempted to start college, something just seemed to get in the way. Whether it was my work schedule, class costs, or my own personal motivation.

Then I learned about the TEACH scholarship. I had been out of school for some time, but I knew I wanted to continue to work with kids, and so applying for the TEACH scholarship seemed like the perfect opportunity. I ended up getting the scholarship and truly I do not know if I ever would have got the chance to go back to school if it was not for it. Due to this scholarship and its agreements, I got time off work to focus on school, I did not have the stress of living paycheck to paycheck to try and afford classes, and I got to learn more about something I truly care about and further my education in early childhood. Throughout my scholarship process, I had amazing support from the owner at my job, and amazing support from my counselor. Julie Warford genuinely answered any question I had, replied to me quickly, and made me feel like I could ask for help and/or talk about whatever I needed. I genuinely feel like having a good counselor that makes you feel comfortable to ask whatever, as well as being supportive throughout the years you will work with them while having this scholarship, is such an important thing.

Fast forward to some years later and I finally graduated from Metro this Spring of 2024. Due to finally graduating with an Associates Degree and getting the confidence to do school while working full time, I have decided to further my degree in Behavioral Science/Counseling. I would not have been able to do any of this without the TEACH scholarship, and for that I am forever thankful. This scholarship gives educators like me the opportunity to work while furthering their career, as well as feeling like you are a part of a team. Throughout having this scholarship, I have talked to other students that also have the scholarship, as well as got to meet some amazing staff that left a huge positive impact on me. I am currently an Assistant Director of the building I have now been at for ten years, and this scholarship is something I brag about to all my incoming teachers, and/or teachers that are wanting to further their education. The TEACH program is not only changing educators’ lives, but it is also helping set our future children in early childhood up for success by supporting their educators. Thank you so much, TEACH!