



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS A Scholarship & Compensation Project

What is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project?

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Project is an educational scholarship opportunity for staff working in child care centers and family child care providers. T.E.A.C.H. links education, compensation and commitment to improving the quality of early childhood care and education programs for children.

What are the goals of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project?

- To improve the quality of early childhood care and education, in child care centers and family child care homes
- To increase the educational level of child care givers
- To increase compensation of child care givers
- To decrease the turnover rate of child care providers
- To promote individual professional development
- To create a model of partnership for improving the quality of Kansas child care programs

Who is eligible to participate in T.E.A.C.H.?

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and commitment to the early childhood field. Child care center staff working with children ages birth-5 and not attending school in a licensed center, or any licensed or registered family child care provider in funded counties meeting the following criteria are eligible to apply for scholarship:

- A minimum number of hours of employment in a licensed early childhood program is required
- A high school diploma or GED
- Make a wage of less than \$14.45 per hour

Why is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project needed?

The educational level of his/her caregiver(s) is one of the most critical indicators of the quality of a child's experience in child care. The project assists caregivers in going back to school to gain more education. The T.E.A.C.H. Project addresses two important issues—the **low wage** of child care providers, and the **high turnover rate** in the child care field—by increasing compensation to caregivers with more education, and requiring participants to remain in child care for an additional time period following their training.

Who benefits from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project?

Child Care Programs:

- Benefit by having staff members who are knowledgeable about good early childhood practices
- Can use their participation in the project as a recruitment and advertising tool
- Experience reduced staff turnover, helping to improve the quality and marketability of their programs

Participants:

- Increase their knowledge and skill level
- Receive increased compensation for the completion of coursework
- Experience increased professional status and job satisfaction
- Receive support and encouragement for their professional development

Children:

- Form relationships with caregivers that have made a commitment to the field
- Benefit from caregivers that are specialists in early child development and are sensitive to the needs of the very young

What kind of commitments are scholarship recipients required to make?

Scholarship recipients:

- Must attend and successfully complete courses
- Pay a portion of the cost of tuition and books
- Agree to remain in the sponsoring early childhood program or family child care home for a period of time following the completion of a year of education

What kind of commitments are early childhood programs required to make?

Early childhood programs agree to sponsor a scholarship recipient by:

- Contributing a portion of the cost of tuition and books
- Give the recipient paid release time from work each week to attend classes or study. (T.E.A.C.H. reimburses the center for a part of that cost)
- Awarding the recipient a bonus or raise upon completion of the contract requirements

How is funding received for the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project?

A partnership exists between the scholarship recipient, the sponsoring child care program and the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project. Each party pays a portion of the total cost

Who funds the Early Childhood Associate Degree Scholarship Program

Funding currently comes from a variety of sources depending on your location. The sources include: Kansas State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund through either Smart Start or Early Learning Block grants.

Child Care Aware® of Kansas administers the licensed T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® program for Smart Start or Early Childhood Block Grant programs throughout the state.

For information regarding the Smart Start or Early Learning Block Grants, visit the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website: www.kschildrenscabinet.org

For more information about the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® KANSAS Project, please contact Kris Nicholson, toll-free at 1-877-678-2548 or kris@ks.childcareaware.org