

How Employers Can Support T.E.A.C.H. Recipients in Their College Experience

A child care program administrator's decision to sponsor a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® (T.E.A.C.H.) scholarship is one of the most important steps an employer can take towards improving staff retention and maintaining a high quality early care and education environment for young children.

Agreeing to provide financial support for educational expenses sends a message to the teacher that she is respected, valued and essential to the program's mission. Yet there are other equally important supports that an employer can provide to help the teacher experience academic success and grow professionally.

A T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship recipient tends to flourish and achieve successful outcomes in her coursework when her/his sponsor

- Helps the teacher develop an individualized professional development plan.
- Spends some time helping the teacher go through the degree program plan and requirements.
- Attends college orientations with the teacher.
- Interacts with the teacher around course selection each semester.
- Helps the teacher identify her needs for additional resources offered at the college or in the community.
- Recognizes that paid release time is vital to the teacher's personal and academic success.
- Provides regular check-ins with the teacher to understand how she is juggling various demands and responsibilities at home, work and college.
- Collects grade reports each semester for the teacher's personnel file.
- Celebrates the small victories and steps toward educational achievements.
- Works to further strengthen the teacher's confidence by creating mentoring and leadership opportunities.
- Recognizes the teacher's accomplishments with peers, families in the center and in the community.
- Attends graduation or other recognition ceremonies on behalf of the teacher.
- Wears a button or posts a sign that says, "I'm a proud sponsor of a T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship recipient"
- Encourages other staff in the center to express their support of the teacher's efforts.
- Provides opportunities (or strategies) for the teacher to share newly acquired knowledge in her classroom and with families.
- Encourages the teacher to share her knowledge with other teachers in the center.

Many T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship recipients are the first in their family to go to college. Having a supportive employer can make the difference toward a successful journey.



"T.E.A.C.H. has been really great for us. It helps our teachers go to school. What they learn has benefited our program. The teachers bring the content they learn at school into their classrooms. I am a scholarship recipient too and it has changed how I view early childhood and it makes me much more passionate about it."

~ Program Director, NM

"Thank you for your continued support. Without your support we would not be where we are today with education, wonderful teachers and a 5 star rating."

- PreK Program Director, NC

"...Without T.E.A.C.H. we would not be able to have all of our lead teachers on a path to get their bachelor's degrees. The knowledge they are gaining helps us provide the best early childhood environments for the children we serve."

~ Head Start Director, IN

"T.E.A.C.H. is a wonderful resource for teachers. I love the support and guidance that is given to my staff as they maneuver the higher educational system."

~ Center Director, RI

A product of the
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

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