

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® North Carolina

## 2008-2009 Results



■ Before first grade, a child may spend over 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in a good early education program in the first five years of life are most likely to be in a highly skilled job or in college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today ensures 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 teacher education and compensation. But in North Carolina, few early educators have higher education degrees and many earn as little as \$8 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project awards educational scholarships to child care professionals in an effort to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early childhood workforce. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link increasing educational levels with increased compensation. Recipients and their sponsoring child care programs share in the cost.

In 2008-2009 the North Carolina T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project helped over 5,300 child care providers in our state increase their education.

- 78% of recipients completed coursework toward an associate degree.
- 493 entry-level professionals obtained the early childhood credentials required for employment in North Carolina.
- 53% of recipients were women of color.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients completed over 35,000 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of the 58 different community colleges or 19 universities offering early childhood degrees in North Carolina.
- 27% of all licensed child care programs had at least one T.E.A.C.H. recipient.
- The average grade point average for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her associate degree was 3.13.
- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was \$9.14.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates that are far less than the statewide turnover rate of 24%. In this year alone, 99,588 of North Carolina's children benefited from consistent care provided by a better educated teacher.

Scholarship Type	Average Increase in Formal Education	Average Increased Earnings	Average Annual Turnover Rate
Associate Degree	14 credit hours per year	13% increase in earnings	5%
Bachelor Degree	15 credit hours per year	12% increase in earnings	5%

North Carolina's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project continues to be heralded by experts in the field as a national leader in creating solutions for early childhood workforce challenges. National outcomes can be found in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® Projects 2008-2009 Annual Program Report.

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*"The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship provides support for teachers that need assistance in getting a better education and it motivates us to become professional providers. The scholarship program is a valuable asset and lets us know that somebody cares about the staff and children."*

—Director, Iredell County

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*"The T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship has made a huge impact on my life. Thanks for allowing me this rewarding experience to be able to further my education and continue to make a difference in the lives of young children."*

—Teacher, Rockingham County

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*"The expenses to operate a licensed child care center are very high, especially with the education component. The cost of education has increased for our teachers. The T.E.A.C.H. program has enabled our center to have at least one staff member on scholarship to earn their AAS in Early Childhood Education."*

—Director, Mecklenburg County

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*"Through the T.E.A.C.H. program I have been able to go back to school. I graduated over 30 years ago and was not able to attend college because of finances. I am now almost finished with my degree in Early Childhood Education, all paid for by the T.E.A.C.H. program. I have also learned to better care for the children in my day care through the classes I have taken."*

—Family Child Care Provider, Wayne County

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*"I finally graduate in two weeks with a Bachelor's Degree. T.E.A.C.H. has allowed me to pace myself. It has taken me more than 10 years to reach this point, but I'm extremely thankful for the prize. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

—Child Care Center Director, Cumberland County



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