

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

## 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 the North Carolina T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project helped over 4,700 child care providers in our state increase their education.

- 75% of recipients completed coursework toward an associate degree.
- 490 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 26,000 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of the 58 different community colleges or 18 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 3.08.
- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was \$9.41.

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, 85,819 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	11% 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 2009-2010 Annual Program Report.

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*"T.E.A.C.H has contributed to the success of our center. By participating in the T.E.A.C.H. program, my center has been able to lower our turnover rate with teachers. The teachers have completed early childhood courses, which helps retain our points in education for our license. We are a small, private center that needs to financial assistance to support our teachers in higher education."*

—Child Care Center Director, Mecklenburg County

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*"I have enjoyed the opportunity to go back to school through T.E.A.C.H. It has helped me to build a better business and by taking classes I can implement what I've learned in my lessons and teaching the children."*

—Family Child Care Provider, Craven County

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*"Without T.E.A.C.H. I would not have been able to go back to school. My counselor has always been helpful to me and has assisted me with getting into classes. I really appreciate the funding for my scholarship and the help that I have received to continue my education."*

—Teacher, Cumberland County

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*"The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has been a tremendous help in allowing my staff to continue their education. I have one that graduated in May with a B-K Degree and another that will complete hers at the end of this year and one that will finish in 2011. I know without the help of T.E.A.C.H. scholarship funds this would not have been possible for these teachers."*

—Child Care Center Director, Cleveland County

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*"T.E.A.C.H. has been an instrumental part of my life. Since I work full time and have a 3 year old it would be very hard financially for me to continue in educational efforts. Since I have a busy life with family and work, I appreciate the hours that I am given weekly to complete assignments and study. I am a firm believer that with T.E.A.C.H. in early childhood teachers' lives it enables them to gain knowledge and skills."*

—Teacher, Orange County



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