



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I already qualify for financial aid what benefits, if any, are there to applying for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship?

A: T.E.A.C.H. encourages all applicants to apply for federal financial aid (ex. Pell Grant). If awarded, you may still be eligible for the T.E.A.C.H. bonus, center sponsored bonus and travel stipend.

Q: What kind of commitments are programs required to make?

A: Programs are required to pay a portion of the tuition costs. Each program awards a bonus upon completion of the scholarship requirements and gives the recipient paid release time from work to attend classes or study. *(Please see waivers for exceptions)

Q: What kinds of commitments are recipients required to make?

A: Each recipient must pay a portion of the cost of the tuition and must attend and successfully complete all courses with a "C" or better. T.E.A.C.H. pays 100 % of the tuition and books up front. The scholar's 10% of tuition and 10% of books is deducted from their \$80.00 per semester travel stipend. **NOTE:** Recipients must remain at the sponsoring center for six months to one year following the scholarship year.

Q: What if my employer cannot afford to sponsor me?

A: There have been recent updates to the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship.

- Sponsoring centers, with the authorization of both the scholar and the center, no longer have to offer paid release time.
- Sponsoring centers, with the authorization of both the scholar and the center, no longer have to pay a 2% bonus or a \$350 bonus at the end of the contract year.

Q: What is the minimum and maximum number of credits T.E.A.C.H. will allow throughout the year?

A: Scholarship recipients must commit to taking a minimum of nine (9) credit hours and a maximum of fifteen (15) credit hours per year at a participating community college.

Q: I am currently enrolled in DES Pathways Project. Do I still qualify for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship?

A: No. Both T.E.A.C.H. and Pathways are state funded programs, therefore concurrent participation in both is not permitted.

Q: Where can I go to college and what kinds of classes may I take?

A: Each scholarship recipient works toward her or his own individual professional goals within the Early Childhood Education field T.E.A.C.H. has partnered with most colleges in the state to allow recipients to choose their coursework. Student will work closely with their selected college to determine the required coursework.

Q: Do all individuals who work in a Child Care Center qualify for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship, and what is the minimum number of hours I have to work in order to qualify for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship?

A: In an effort to improve the quality and consistency of Child Care, T.E.A.C.H. welcomes individuals who work directly with children ages birth – five, including center Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Directors, Assistant Directors and Family Child Care Providers and Owners. **Note:** In order to qualify for the Associates Degree Scholarship you must work at least thirty (30) hours per week in a regulated center or home. The minimum hours worked per week is twenty (20) for the CDA Assessment Scholarship (* See Financial Waivers for exception to number of hours worked.)

Q: How long does it take for T.E.A.C.H. to process my application?

A: Once all required documents have been submitted, it typically takes less than five working days to process an application. Missing paycheck stubs, agency profile forms and incomplete applications are the most common cause of delays in application processing.

Q: Will T.E.A.C.H. reimburse me for classes and books I have already paid for in the current semester?

A: Yes, upon the completion of “Form B” and submission of original receipts.

Q: Are CDA courses covered under the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship?

A: No. T.E.A.C.H. will pay a significant portion of the CDA Assessment, but it does not cover its coursework.

Q: Am I required to take all six (6) hours of paid release time very week?

A: No. You may save your hours throughout the semester. We encourage all recipients to communicate openly with their director in order to create a strategy for paid release time. *(Please see waivers for paid release time exceptions)

Q: I currently make more than \$20.00 per hour, but only work 9 months out of the year? Would I still qualify for the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship?

A: You may still qualify; T.E.A.C.H. can annualize your salary to reflect an adjusted hourly income.



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arizona is a signature program of First Things First administered under contract with the Association for Supportive Child Care

