



Supports for ECE Professionals in Keystone STARS Programs to Increase their Education



The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is funding the following programs in 2016-17 to help early childhood education directors and staff in Keystone STARS programs continue their education and earn credentials and degrees.

As of July 1, 2017, all applicants eligible for T.E.A.C.H. ® must elect that option. Only those applicants not meeting T.E.A.C.H. ® eligibility requirements will be considered for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance.

 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® Pennsylvania Scholarship	 Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program
<p>Who is an eligible applicant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PA Resident working a minimum of 25 hours per week in a DHS-certified Keystone STARS child care program. ✓ Earn \$19 or less an hour (\$25 or less per hour for Directors). ✓ Be interested in pursuing coursework at a participating college or university (at least 9 credits per year) toward a degree or credential in early childhood education. ✓ Applicant may apply for scholarships for a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; CDA Assessment, Associate's degree; Bachelor's degree; or PA Teacher Certification. ✓ Agree to continue working for a sponsoring employer for an additional year after each scholarship year. 	<p>Who is an eligible applicant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PA resident working a minimum of 20 hours per week in a classroom setting as the director, assistant director or education coordinator working in a Head Start or Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classroom. ✓ Earn up to \$40,000/year– Aides, Assistant Teachers, Teachers, or Assistant Directors (\$50,000/year -- Directors, Family or Group Child Care Home Owners/Operators, Head Start Education Managers, Coordinators, or Site Supervisors). ✓ Be enrolled in a CDA, AA, BS/BA or MS/MA in Early childhood Education or related degree providing at least one credit. ✓ Agree to continue to work in a Keystone STARS facility for 2 months for every credit supported by Rising STARS Tuition Assistance (maximum commitment of 24 months). ✓ Maintain a 3.0 GPA for the classes taken or degree program in which the student is enrolled.
<p>What is covered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scholarship recipients receive funding for tuition, fees, books, travel and paid release time from their employer. ✓ Recipients and sponsoring employers contribute a percentage of 10%-25% of the cost of tuition and approved fees for courses (usually 9-15 credit hours per year) at an approved college or university. ✓ Recipients receive compensation in the form of a stipend or raise provided by the employer and/or T.E.A.C.H. ® after each successful scholarship year. ✓ Sponsoring employers receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to scholarship recipients. ✓ Scholarship Counselors provide professional development and career counseling, along with technical assistance to recipients and employers. ✓ A variety of scholarship models are available to best meet needs. Release time and compensation vary by model. Details of each model are listed on scholarship applications. 	<p>What is covered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tuition assistance recipients receive funding for tuition costs only. ✓ Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program pays 95% of tuition costs for eligible college coursework taken by early learning professionals. ✓ Maximum benefit of \$6,000 per individual each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). ✓ Eligible employers may receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to staff to attend class, study or for substitute coverage. ✓ Tuition costs net of other funding sources such as scholarships, stipends, discounts or grants (except Pell Grants) are used to determine the amount of assistance.
<p>How do I apply?</p> <p>For more information and to apply, visit PACCA's website at http://www.pacca.org/teach.html or call (717) 657-9000</p>	<p>How do I apply?</p> <p>For more information and to apply, visit PA Key's website www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Career_Financial</p>