

West Virginia STARS Career Pathway Credential Levels



The WV STARS Career Pathway Credential Level is awarded based on your education and experience specific to Early Childhood.

- ★ Find the highest level where you meet at least one row of the listed requirements.
- ★ Gather all documentation shown next to that option, then review this helpful [how-to guide](#).
- ★ Next, apply online - don't forget to upload your documentation!
- ★ Finally, a STARS staff member will review your application and submissions to place you on the Career Pathway. This may take up to 30 days, please be patient.

- ★ Coursework in the Early Care and Education (ECE) Field refers to child development, birth to four certification, early childhood, child and family studies, family and consumer science, and early childhood special education.
- ★ Relevant Occupation Experience refers to any professional position working with or on behalf of children, ages birth through eight (8) and their families through a) direct work with young children and families; b) supervision, leadership or management; c) program coordination, development or regulation; d) training, instruction or technical assistance; or e) evaluation or research.
- ★ Only diplomas from secondary education institutions recognized by the WV Department of Education, if attended within WV, the American Council on Education, if attended outside of WV, or a regional accrediting association will be accepted for consideration.
- ★ Only higher education coursework from or recognized by institutions of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association will be eligible for consideration.

Level I

Abilities	Conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals by following supervisory direction and instruction.	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
At least 16 years old and enrolled in high school or GED preparation classes		<input type="checkbox"/> Letter or statement of enrollment from high school or adult education program <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé

Level II

Abilities	Understand and practice Core Knowledge and Core Competencies with direction and instruction or through sponsorship/affiliation with a professional organization or qualified mentor.	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
At least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé

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Level III

Abilities	Practice programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
WV Training Certificate in Early Care and Education (WVTCECE)		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of WVTCECE <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
120 completed training hours required for the Child Development Associate (CDA) or equivalent		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of training certificates that indicate 120 clock hours of training in each area established by the Council for Professional Recognition <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
3 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of completion certificate from ACDS Semester 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
Completed 4 courses of the WVDE Child Development Specialist (CDS) Career and Technical Education program.		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of certificate from WVDE Child Development Specialist Career and Technical Education program <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé

Level IV

Abilities	Practice and implement programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of CDA certificate from Council for Professional Recognition or copy of other credential approved by WV STARS Policy Advisory Council <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
12 college credits in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating at least 12 college credit hours in ECE <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 1 year of experience
4 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program.		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of completion certificate from ACDS Semester 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary I, or Elementary II Montessori Teaching Credential		<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Teaching Credential <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Administration		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé

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Level V

Abilities	Plan and adapt programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	
Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application	
Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) Department of Labor or Department of Education certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of apprenticeship certificate from Dept of Labor or Dept of Education <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
Other certificate program in early care and education comparable to ACDS	<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of certificate approved by WV STARS Policy Advisory Council <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating Elementary Education bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
28 or more college credit hours with 9 college credit hours in ECE	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating at least 28 credit hours with 9 ECE credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
28 or more college credit hours and 1 year of relevant occupational experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating at least 28 college credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 1 year of experience	

Level VI

Abilities	Make curricular decisions that conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	
Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application	
Associate's degree in an ECE field	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating ECE associate's degree <small>(inc. Occupational Dev. if Child Development Specialist is specified)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
Associate's degree with 12 college credit hours in ECE	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating 12 ECE credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
Associate's degree and 2 years of relevant occupational experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating associate's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 2 years of experience	
Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and 1 year of relevant occupational experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Official transcript indicating Elementary Education bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 1 year of experience	
64 college credit hours with 12 college credit hours in ECE	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating 64 college credit hours with 12 ECE credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
64 college credit hours and 2 years of relevant occupational experience.	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating 64 college credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 2 years of experience	

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Level VII

Abilities	Develop, select, and evaluate the early childhood program; apply theory into practice.	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
Bachelor's degree in ECE field		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating ECE bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
Bachelor's degree with 15 college credit hours in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating 15 ECE credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 1 year of experience
Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and 2 years of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Official transcript indicating Elementary Education bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 2 years of experience
Bachelor's degree and 3 years of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 3 years of experience
Advanced (master's or doctorate) degree in Elementary Education		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating advanced Elementary Education degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé

Level VIII

Abilities	Directly involved in the activities of state, regional, and/or national groups; contribute to the formation, evaluation, and implementation of policies within the early childhood field.	
Requirements		Documentation to Submit with Application
Advanced (master's or doctorate) degree in ECE field		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating advanced ECE degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
Advanced degree with 18 college credit hours in ECE and 1 year of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating 18 ECE credit hours <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 1 year of experience
Advanced degree and 5 years of relevant occupational experience		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating advanced degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé indicating 5 years of experience

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