

TEACH Early Childhood® Rhode Island

FY24 RESULTS

From birth to age eight a child's brain is developing faster than at any other time in their life. The experiences a child has in those first eight years provide a foundation for their future. Children who receive high quality early learning experiences are more likely to live healthier lives, earn higher wages and contribute to society.

The quality of early care and education a child receives is directly linked to the education and compensation of early educators. In Rhode Island, many early educators do not have higher education degrees and many earn less than \$15 an hour. The TEACH Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover in the workforce. All TEACH Early Childhood® scholarships link increased education with higher compensation and retention. Scholarship recipients and their sponsoring early care and education programs share the cost.

In Rhode Island, **Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children** administers the TEACH Early Childhood® Program. In FY24, the program helped **170** early education professionals increase their education. TEACH recipients show powerful dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national average. This year alone, **6,048** of Rhode Island's children were cared for in settings who participated in TEACH.

EDUCATION

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **13.09** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **12.71** credits per contract.
- Recipients in Rhode Island completed more than **911** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.55**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.35**.

COMPENSATION

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a TEACH scholarship was **\$18.18**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **13.67%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **15%**.

RETENTION

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **95.56%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **93%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **84.7%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **51.8%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **55.9%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx, and an overwhelming majority of all recipients were women.
- Recipients attended one of **1** community college or **2** universities offering early childhood degree programs in Rhode Island.

PERSONAL IMPACT

- In a survey of recipients, **97%** said they would recommend TEACH to their peers, and **96%** of their employers would recommend TEACH.

The TEACH Early Childhood® Program is heralded by experts in the field as a national leader in creating solutions for early childhood education workforce challenges. National outcomes can be found in the TEACH Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® 2023-2024 Annual National Program Report.

TEACH Early Childhood® Rhode Island FY24 VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Christine Millis,
TEACH Graduate

Christine started her journey with TEACH in Fall 2018, completing her associate's degree in August 2020 while working as a teacher/floater. In 2022, she decided to continue her participation in TEACH and to pursue her bachelor's degree at the University of Rhode Island. Throughout her time studying as a TEACH scholar, she transitioned from the classroom to administration. She is on track to graduate at the end of the Fall 2024 semester! Chris is an incredible advocate for early childhood educators who want to pursue higher education. "TEACH has helped me to accomplish my educational goals by making it possible to afford going back to school part time. TEACH has also helped me in accomplishing my professional goals by helping me meet like-minded colleagues from different walks of life and expand my professional network."

Jessica has been a TEACH Scholar since August 2018. It's been a long journey for Jessica; as an English language learner, she enrolled in multiple ELL courses while pursuing an associate's degree in early childhood education. This past spring, Jessica finally received her diploma from the Community College of Rhode Island. Shortly after, TEACH Rhode Island was thrilled to learn that Jessica wanted to continue her studies. This coming fall, Jessica will transition to the University of Rhode Island to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with support from TEACH. Jessica is an administrator at the Genesis Center in Providence. Jessica is committed to learning and growing as an educator so she can provide the best care for the students in her center. "I am and will always be eternally grateful to TEACH for giving me this opportunity."



Jessica Volquez,
TEACH Scholar



Mirtha Tavares,
TEACH Scholar

Mirtha Tavares is a family child care provider who dedicates much of her time to her provider community. She started as a TEACH scholar in January 2019 completing her CDA shortly thereafter. Mirtha decided to further pursue her education and enrolled in the Birth to Three Certificate of Undergraduate Studies at Rhode Island College this past fall. Mirtha is on track to complete this certificate program by Spring 2025. "It is an opportunity to go to university and prepare to obtain the necessary knowledge to do a better job, and practice professionally. And TEACH is responsible for paying for your education."