



Scholarship Updates Effective Fall 2026

Beginning Fall 2026, TEACH Early Childhood Rhode Island is implementing updates to scholarship benefits and eligibility requirements to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the program while continuing to support early childhood educators pursuing higher education.

Scholarship Benefit Updates

Books	Up to \$200 toward required books per semester. Scholars are responsible for remaining book costs.
Release Time	30 hours at \$17/hour (Fall/Spring); 15 hours at \$17/hour (Summer).
Tuition	No change. TEACH pays 90% of tuition. Scholar and employer each contribute 5% (where applicable).
Travel	No change. Up to \$100 per semester.

TEACH Bonuses

- Associate Degree — \$450 annual bonus
- Bachelor's Degree — \$500 annual bonus
- Birth to Three Certificate — \$400 scholar completion bonus
- Credit-Bearing Scholarships (3–6 credits) — Completion award discontinued

ECE Leadership Graduate Certificate

- Available to Education Coordinators, Center Directors/Administrators, and Family Child Care Providers
- 15-credit certificate completed over approximately 18 months
- No release time reimbursement or completion bonus

No Changes

- 90% tuition scholarship benefit
- 5% scholar tuition contribution
- 5% employer tuition contribution (where applicable)
- Employment commitment requirements
- Employer raise/bonus option for Degree and Birth to Three scholarship models

Eligibility

- Must be employed in a non-State Pre-K classroom.
- Must be employed in a DHS-licensed child care program that actively participates in BrightStars and the DHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Questions? Please contact the TEACH Rhode Island office if you have questions about these updates.