

# West Virginia STARS Career Pathway Credential Levels

When you apply for a Career Pathway Credential WV STARS Staff will review your application and documentation to determine your Career Pathway Level. Career Pathway Levels are based on your **Early Childhood Specific** education and experience as shown through supporting documentation.



Level	Abilities	Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application
I	Conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals by following supervisory direction and instruction.	At least 16 years old <b>and</b> enrolled in high school <b>or</b> GED preparation classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter or statement of enrollment from high school or adult education program <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
II	Understand and practice Core Knowledge and Core Competencies with direction and instruction or through sponsorship/affiliation with a professional organization or qualified mentor.	At least 18 years old <b>with</b> a high school diploma or equivalent <b>and</b> 0-1 years of relevant occupational experience	<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
III	Practice programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	WV Training Certificate in Early Care and Education (WVTCECE)	<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"/> 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"/> 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"/> Copy of certificate from WV Career and Technical Education program <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
IV	Practice and implement programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of CDA certificate from Council for Professional Recognition or copy of other credential approved by WV STARS Policy Advisory Council (including ACSI PAC) <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
12 college credits in ECE <b>and</b> 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"/> Copy of completion certificate from ACDS Semester 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
North American Montessori Center Teaching Diploma		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of certificate from NAMC <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	
Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Administration		<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Certificate from WVU <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé	

Level	Abilities	Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application
V	Plan and adapt programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) Department of Labor or Department of Education certificate	<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"/> Copy of certificate approved by WV STARS Policy Advisory Council <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
		28 or more college credit hours <b>with</b> 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 <b>and</b> 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	Abilities	Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application
VI	Make curricular decisions that conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.	Associate's degree in an ECE field	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of official transcript indicating ECE associate's degree (include Occupational Development if Child Development Specialist is indicated) <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
		Associate's degree <b>with</b> 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 <b>and</b> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
		64 college credit hours <b>with</b> 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 <b>and</b> 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
Level	Abilities	Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application
VII	Develop, select, and evaluate the early childhood program; apply theory into practice.	Bachelor's degree in ECE field	<input type="checkbox"/> Official transcript indicating ECE bachelor's degree <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé
		Bachelor's degree <b>with</b> 15 college credit hours in ECE <b>and</b> 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 <b>and</b> 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

Level	Abilities	Requirements	Documentation to Submit with Application
VIII	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.	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 <b>with</b> 18 college credit hours in ECE <b>and</b> 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 <b>and</b> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Only higher education coursework from or recognized by institutions of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting association will be eligible for consideration.</li> </ul>			
<p>This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and the West Virginia Department of Human Services and is administered by West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.</p>			