

TEACH Early Childhood® South Carolina FY25 Results

From birth to age 8, 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 South Carolina, 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 South Carolina, **SC Endeavors** administers the TEACH Early Childhood® Program. In FY24, the program helped **548 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, **17,692 of South Carolina's children** were cared for in settings that participated in 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® 2023-2024 Annual National Program Report.

EDUCATION

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **12.69** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **14.60** credits per contract.
- Recipients in South Carolina completed **more than 3,285** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.33**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.55**.

COMPENSATION

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a TEACH scholarship was **\$17.03**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **7.50%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **7.80%**.

RETENTION

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **95.80%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **96.80%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **334** of recipients worked with 3 to 5-year-old children.
- **331** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- Recipients attended one of **16** community colleges or **7** universities offering early childhood degree programs in **South Carolina**.

PERSONAL IMPACT

- In a survey of recipients, **97%** said they would recommend TEACH to their peers, and **100%** of their employers would recommend TEACH.