

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® South Carolina

FY21 Results

Before first grade, a child may spend more than 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in high-quality early care and education programs in the first five years of life are more likely to be in a highly skilled job or college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today creates a viable workforce for the future and a strong American economy in the long run.

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 T.E.A.C.H. 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 T.E.A.C.H. 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**, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by **South Carolina Endeavors**. In FY21, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® **South Carolina** helped **557** early education professionals increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **12.7** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **15.1** credits per contract.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in **South Carolina** completed more than **2,496** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.48**.
- The average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.62**.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was **\$10.69**.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **7%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **14%**.

Retention (removing turnover caused by COVID-19)

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **92.1%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **87.9%**.

Demographics

- **56%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **53%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **54%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients attended one of **16** community colleges or **4** universities offering early childhood degree programs in South Carolina.

Personal Impact

- In a survey of T.E.A.C.H. recipients, **100%** said they would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to their peers, and **100%** of their employers would recommend T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates far less than the national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone, **21,878** of **South Carolina's** children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Initiative 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 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® 2020-2021 [Annual Program Report](#).





T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® South Carolina FY21 Voices From the Field



“At 45 years old and working a full-time job, I never thought I’d be able to return to college to complete my degree that I started almost 30 years ago. When my SC-CCRR Quality Coach, Marian David, told me about the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship, I jumped on board. I finished my Associate Degree in Early Care and Education in six semesters while working full-time as an owner/director of a Montessori preschool. Needless to say, it was tough sometimes. However, I knew that I couldn’t let this opportunity pass me by. I learned so much from my instructors and the specialized courses designed for what we do every day. I’m continuing on to earn my Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood and Family Studies Management. It will most certainly take a while to finish, but the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship program will be there with me throughout my journey. I have also shared my experience with my staff and have five teachers who are starting their journey this fall. I’m so very excited to watch them grow!”

— **Heather Byrd, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate**



“I appreciate the great support and assistance that I received while obtaining my Early Care and Education Associate Degree through T.E.A.C.H. My questions and concerns were met with helpful responses in a timely fashion, including during some of the roughest moments during this pandemic. I’d like to personally thank Robbie Hall, Connie Spinks and Elizabeth Jones, who each have helped me during my quest to achieve my degree. Their patience, knowledge and willingness to ensure my needs were met was a vital part of my success. On graduation day, I proudly wore the T.E.A.C.H. pin I received from when I first started with the scholarship program. I also wore my Head Start pin to celebrate my growth in the education field. I look forward to furthering my academic career with a bachelor’s degree in the future through T.E.A.C.H. In addition, if it is not obvious, I highly recommend T.E.A.C.H. for anyone with a desire to teach young minds. Just as I was able to accomplish my goals, you can and will too, especially with the support of the T.E.A.C.H. team.”

— **Cachet McCall, T.E.A.C.H. Graduate**

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