

TEACH Early Childhood® South Carolina 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 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, **South Carolina Endeavors** administers the TEACH Early Childhood® Program. In FY24, the program helped **469** 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, **16,952** of South Carolina's children were cared for in settings who participated in TEACH.

EDUCATION

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of **12.43** credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of **14.45** credits per contract.
- Recipients in South Carolina completed more than **2,799** credit hours.
- The average grade point average (GPA) for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **3.2**.
- The average GPA for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **3.6**.

COMPENSATION

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a TEACH scholarship was **\$14.24**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on an associate degree scholarship was **6.86%**.
- The average increase in earnings for a recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was **6.56%**.

RETENTION

- For associate degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **96.6%**.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients, the average retention rate was **97.01%**.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **67%** of recipients worked with 3-5-year-old children.
- **58.4%** of recipients worked with children less than 3 years old.
- **57.8%** of recipients were people of color and/or Latinx, and an overwhelming majority of all recipients were women.
- 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, **100%** said they would recommend TEACH to their peers, and **95%** 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® South Carolina FY24 VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Ashley Parker,
Executive Director, The Oaks Children's Academy

TEACH program has been an amazing tool and asset to me throughout my journey of earning my degree. Everyone at TEACH has been super hands on and available for questions, help or concerns. It is very easy to apply and join. TEACH has provided me the opportunity to earn my degree and continue working. Without TEACH, I don't know that I could have afforded college tuition. It is also amazing that we are paid for going to school and passing our classes! TEACH is awesome and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in the Early Childhood Education field!



Alyssa Wesley,
TEACH Scholar

I have worked in child care for the last 15 years; I am currently the Assistant Director at an after-school care program in the public school setting. Thanks to TEACH I am studying to get my bachelor's in early care and education. I just completed my first semester at Trident Technical College, and I received A's in both of my classes. I have not attended college for over 10 years, so it is safe to say I was nervous and somewhat intimidated by the whole idea of going back to school. I was not sure how I was going to be able to adjust to attending classes again, working my full-time job and taking care of my husband and three kids all at the same time. Everyone associated with TEACH has been extremely helpful in this process, and I am very grateful to them. I have a lot of confidence having my job and TEACH in my corner as I go on this journey.