

FY18 Results

Before first grade, a child may spend over 10,000 hours in child care. Research tells us that children enrolled in a good early care and education program in the first five years of life are most likely to be in a highly skilled job or in college at age 21. Ensuring quality early care and education for children today ensures 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 Rhode Island, many early educators do not have higher education degrees and many earn less than \$12 an hour. The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Program awards educational scholarships to early education professionals in an effort to address the key issues of under-education, poor compensation and high turnover within the early education workforce. All T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships link increasing educational levels with increased compensation and retention. Scholarship recipients and their sponsoring early care and education programs share in the cost.

In Rhode Island, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is administered by Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children. In FY18, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Rhode Island helped over 36 early education professionals in the state increase their education.

Education

- Recipients on associate degree scholarships completed an average of 13.1 credits per contract.
- Recipients on bachelor's degree scholarships completed an average of 22.7 credit hours.
- T.E.A.C.H. recipients in Rhode Island completed over 571 credit hours last year.
- The average grade point average for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her associate degree was 3.38; the average GPA for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient working on her bachelor's degree was 3.74.

Compensation

- The average hourly wage of a teacher on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was \$14.04.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on an associate degree scholarship was 8.7%.
- The average increase in earnings for a T.E.A.C.H. recipient on a bachelor's degree scholarship was 11.3%.

Retention

- For associate degree scholarship recipients the average retention rate was 97%.
- For bachelor's degree scholarship recipients the average retention rate was 93%.

Demographics

- 86% of recipients worked with 3-5 year old children.
- 31% of recipients worked with children under 3.
- 28% of recipients were women of color and/or Hispanic origin.

T.E.A.C.H. recipients show dramatic dedication to remaining in their professions with turnover rates that are far less than national turnover rates of 30-40%. This year alone 2,955 of Rhode Island's children benefitted from consistent early education and care provided by better prepared early childhood educators.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project continues to be 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® 2017-2018 Annual Program Report: <http://teachecnationalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/T.E.A.C.H.-National-Center-Annual-Report-FY18.pdf>

FY18 Voices from the Field

Millie Lawson works full time as a preschool teacher at the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI. Millie is the most approachable and cheerful individual you will ever meet. Her smile and optimism are contagious. Despite her positive approach to life, she did not always feel that way about going to college and getting an education. Millie is originally from Jamaica where she had to drop out of school at an early age so she could work and help her parents financially while her siblings continued getting an education. Fast-forward to today; Millie is one semester away from graduating from the Community College of Rhode Island with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Millie is forever grateful of the support she has received from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Rhode Island and for the ongoing guidance she has been provided with, even as the program transitioned to a new agency. Millie plans to continue her educational journey by enrolling in Rhode Island College to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and a teaching certification. – Millie Lawson, T.E.A.C.H. Scholar



Joan Morse recently graduated from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with help from T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Rhode Island. Originally from the Philippines, Joan moved to the United States in 2007 as a student. She received her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education in 2009 from Nashua Community College in New Hampshire and shortly after she married and moved to Rhode Island where she was offered a teaching position at a local Head Start program. After a few years of service, Joan's supervisor learned about the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program and immediately encouraged Joan to apply. Joan said that she "grabbed the opportunity as if it was a pot of gold!" That pot of gold came with trials and a lot of hard work. Joan almost gave up but she plowed through. Joan's hard work, dedication and commitment to the field and to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® were recognized during Rhode Island AEYC's second annual Early Childhood Advocacy Conference on May 16, 2018. During the speaking program, Marinel Russo from T.E.A.C.H. Rhode Island was honored to share Joan's story and led the crowd to congratulate Joan on her achievements.

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