

NC Early Educator Certification **EEC**

Congratulations on becoming a certified Early Educator! You are part of a growing body of early care and school age professionals in North Carolina.

Your Early Educator Certification (EEC) is a professional certification granted by the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals, a non-profit organization which is representative of the field. EEC used a standardized scale to assign you a certification level based on the education earned at the time of application.

If you have no college courses you will be certified as a Paraprofessional (Level PP). Note: Testing out of the Early Childhood Credential does not provide college credits and will result in certification at the Paraprofessional level.

Certified Early Educators maintain their certification by completing continuing education units or college courses or a combination of both.

EEC Continuing Education Requirements

Most professions have a certification process that includes continuing education requirements – including hairdressers, public school teachers, nurses and more. As a certified professional you will need to continue to learn to grow your knowledge and skills which will help you provide quality services to young children and their families. Individuals will be notified in their certification letters about specific renewal requirements that may apply based on their educational assessment.

- Individuals certified on the **Early Care and Education Professional Scale** must continue their professional development by completing four semester hours or six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or a combination of the two within their certification validity period (three or five years).
- Individuals certified on the **School Age Professional Scale** must complete two semester hours or three Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or a combination of the two within their certification validity period (three or five years).
- Individuals certified on both scales must meet the renewal requirements of both scales. To view the EEC scales go to <http://ncicdp.org/certification/licensure/eec-overview/>.



EEC Rewards

Maintaining your certification provides you with access to new information, research and tools that can improve your practice.

As a certified Early Educator you have access to discounts on purchases and services. The list is growing – from discounts on Avon to lower costs on purchases of supplies and equipment.

EEC Rewards Link:

<http://ncicdp.org/certification-licensure/eec-rewards/>

Continuing Education Quick Notes

Certified Early Educators have options for continuing to learn and grow their skills — college courses or continuing education units or both!

College Credits

Courses are available across the state through NC's community colleges and universities

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships are available to greatly reduce college costs to meet EEC renewal requirements: <http://www.childcareservices.org/ps/teach.html>
- Early childhood, school age or general education courses count — if you have six or more semester hours of coursework focused on the age group of your certification scale. Check the list of community college courses that count: http://ncicdp.org/documents/NC_CC_Course_list.pdf

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

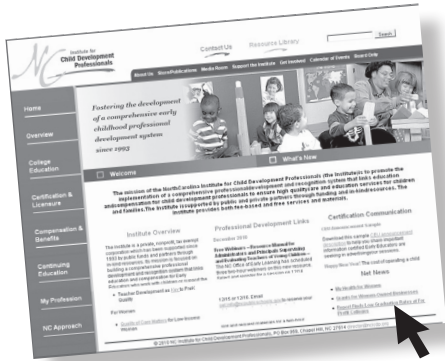
Contact your local child care resource and referral agency, Smart Start agency, college and university, public school and/or your professional association to learn more about CEU options available near you.

- CEUs must be a total of .5 CEUs in length AND be approved to be offered for CEUs to count for EEC renewal requirements.
- CEUs must be preapproved by a:
 - college
 - university
 - local school (LEA)
 - organization approved by the International Association for Continuing Education & Training
- CEUs may count toward the in-service training hour requirements if DCD has approved the trainer to provide the session or it was provided by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

The validity period for your certification begins when you certification application is processed. This means you have three or five years from the time your certification is issued to attain continuing education to meet EEC renewal requirements. If you have completed acceptable CEUs and/or coursework after you submitted a complete application but before your certification is issued, those credits may be counted toward renewal.

Ready to Make Early Childhood a Career?

Check out the
Career Planning Tools
on the web site!
[http://ncicdp.org/my-profession/
career-planning-tools/](http://ncicdp.org/my-profession/career-planning-tools/)



NC Institute for Child Development Professionals
PO Box 959
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Maintaining my Early Educator Certification

