

## NC Early Educator Certification - An Overview



More than 40,000 early educators work with young children in out of home settings in North Carolina. The early care and education workforce earns low wages and lacks the employment benefits and professional status typically afforded to most professions with college-educated professionals. North Carolina early childhood workforce studies have found key motivators for reducing turnover of early educators include better pay, better benefits, respect for individuals working in the profession and opportunities for professional growth.

**What is Early Educator Certification?** Early Educator Certification (EEC) is the first-in-the-nation field-wide certification for early educators. EEC recognizes and validates the educational accomplishments of the early childhood and school age workforce through an assessment of an individual's verified level of educational achievement based on a standardized scale and assigns an EEC level. As with other occupations, EEC requires ongoing continuing education to maintain certification status. Certified early educators have access to EEC Rewards & Benefits, which provide free work-life benefits, discounts on goods and services and professional growth opportunities.

Certification	Endorsement	Cost Savings	Rewards & Benefits	Professional Growth
Certification provides individuals with two forms of professional recognition documentation: a professional, frame-ready certificate and laminated card featuring their unique EEC number and provides consumers with information about the education of the individual provider.	Specialized professional endorsements exist for early educators working in program administration, professional development and technical assistance roles to provide consumers with an indicator of quality of those providing services.	Certification is held by the individual early educator providing a portable form of point-of-hire documentation for use by employers.  EEC serves as an equivalent form of teacher education verification for NC child care facility licensing purposes.	An EEC Marketplace, work-life tools, discounts on banking services and more are available to certified early educators, mirroring those provided to public school teachers.	Low cost/no cost high quality, in-depth continuing education options, networking and professional symposiums are made available to certified early educators by the Institute and in collaboration with partnering organizations and entities.

**Who is the certifying body for early educators in North Carolina?** The NC Institute for Child Development Professionals (Institute) is the certifying body for early educators in North Carolina. The mission of the Institute, since 1993, is to foster the development of a comprehensive early childhood professional development system.

**Who can be certified?** All early educators who work directly with, on the behalf of or intend to work with children age birth to 12 are eligible to be certified by the Institute.

### Learn More

- North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals - <http://ncicdp.org/about-us/>
- Early Educator Certification Toolkit - <http://ncicdp.org/certification-licensure/eec-toolkit/>
- Early Educator Certification Endorsements - <http://ncicdp.org/certification-licensure/endorsements/>
- Early Educator Certification Rewards & Benefits - <http://ncicdp.org/certification-licensure/eecrewards/>