

Guidance in Meeting Pre-K Lead Teacher Credential Requirements

Pre-K lead teachers who hold a bachelor's degree, not related to Early Childhood Education (ECE) qualify for the lead teacher position if they also hold one of the following approved ECE credentials:

- Associates Degree with an ECE major (78 credit hrs.)
- Technical College Diploma (TCD) with an ECE major (57 credit hrs.)
- Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) with an ECE major (9 -15 credit hrs.)
- Montessori Teaching Diploma
 - o *Montessori courses must be taken from an accredited affiliate of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE)*
- Valid Preschool Child Development Associate (CDA) credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition.
 - o *Note: The following CDA credentials will not meet the CDA requirement for a lead teacher: Infant/Toddler CDA, Family Child Care CDA, Home Visitors CDA, and Military School-Age CDA. Teachers with an expired CDA or in the process of renewing an expired CDA will not meet the CDA requirement.*

For information about the Associates Degree, Technical College Diploma (TCD), Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC), and Child Development Associate (CDA), visit the DECAL Scholars Educational Counseling page: https://decalscholars.com/content/edu_landing.cfm

Transferring College Credits Already Earned

Teachers with a bachelor's degree can often transfer college credits they already earned and apply them toward requirements in TCC, TCD and associate degree programs. PRIOR to enrolling in a program, teachers should inquire about transfer credit policies and credit hour residency requirements.

Financial Support & Educational Counseling



Pre-K Lead and Assistant Teachers who are approved to teach with a credential waiver are eligible for SCHOLARSHIPS through DECAL Scholars. For more information and to apply, visit www.decalscholars.com or call 770-642-6722.

For a list of colleges and universities offering ECE programs of study that qualify for SCHOLARSHIPS, visit <https://decalscholars.com/docs/DECALScholarsGAMapPoster091516.pdf>.

For information about Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) accredited programs, visit <https://www.macte.org/accredited-programs/#/>