

WV STARS Career Pathway Levels

Level VIII

Requirements: Advanced (master's or doctorate) degree in an early care and education field *or* advanced degree with 18 college credit hours in early care and education and either 90 practicum contact hours or 1 year of relevant occupational experience *or* advanced degree and 5 years of relevant occupational experience.

Abilities: Directly involved in the activities of state, regional and/or national groups; contribute to the formation, evaluation & implementation of policies within the field.

Level VII

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in an early care and education field *or* bachelor's degree with 15 college credit hours in early care and education and either 90 practicum hours or 1 year of relevant occupational experience *or* bachelor's degree and 3 years of relevant occupational experience.

Abilities: Develop, select, and evaluate the early childhood program; apply theory into practice.

Level VI

Requirements: Associate's degree in an early care and education field *or* associate's degree with 12 college credit hours in early care and education courses *or* associate's degree and 2 years of relevant occupational experience or 64 college credit hours with 12 college credit hours in early care and education courses *or* 64 college credit hours with 2 years of relevant occupational experience.

Abilities: Make curricular decisions that conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Level V

Requirements: Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) certificate *or* other comparable certificate program in early care and education *or* 28-63 college credit hours, with 9 college credit hours in early care and education *or* 28-63 college credit hours and 1 year of relevant occupational experience.

Abilities: Plan and adapt programming which conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Level IV

Requirements: Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent *or* 12 college credit hours in early care and education and 300 clock hours of relevant occupational experience *or* 4 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development (ACDS) program.

Abilities: Practice and implement programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Level III

Requirements: WV Training Certificate in Early Care and Education (WVTCECE) which includes completion of 120 clock hours of registered training through WV STARS *or* 120 completed training hours required for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent *or* 3 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program *or* completed 4 courses of the WVDE Child Development Specialist (CDS) Career and Technical Education program.

Abilities: Practice programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.

Level II

Requirements: At least 18 years old with a high school diploma *or* equivalent and 0-1 years of experience.

Abilities: Understand and practice Core Knowledge and Core Competencies with direction and instruction or through sponsorship/affiliation with a professional organization or qualified mentor.

Level I

Requirements: At least 16 years old and enrolled in High School *or* GED preparation classes.

Abilities: Conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals by following supervisory direction and instruction.

