The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is funding the following programs in 2016-17 to help early childhood education directors and staff in Keystone STARS programs continue their education and earn credentials and degrees.

As of July 1, 2017, all applicants eligible for T.E.A.C.H. ® must elect that option. Only those applicants not meeting T.E.A.C.H. ® eligibility requirements will be considered for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance.

### T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood ® Pennsylvania Scholarship

**Who is an eligible applicant?**

- PA Resident working a minimum of 25 hours per week in a DHS-certified Keystone STARS child care program.
- Earn $19 or less an hour ($25 or less per hour for Directors).
- Be interested in pursuing coursework at a participating college or university (at least 9 credits per year) toward a degree or credential in early childhood education.
- Applicant may apply for scholarships for a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; CDA Assessment, Associate's degree; Bachelor's degree; or PA Teacher Certification.
- Agree to continue working for a sponsoring employer for an additional year after each scholarship year.

**What is covered?**

- Scholarship recipients receive funding for tuition, fees, books, travel and paid release time from their employer.
- Recipients and sponsoring employers contribute a percentage of 10%-25% of the cost of tuition and approved fees for courses (usually 9-15 credit hours per year) at an approved college or university.
- Recipients receive compensation in the form of a stipend or raise provided by the employer and/or T.E.A.C.H. ® after each successful scholarship year.
- Sponsoring employers receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to scholarship recipients.
- Scholarship Counselors provide professional development and career counseling, along with technical assistance to recipients and employers.
- A variety of scholarship models are available to best meet needs. Release time and compensation vary by model. Details of each model are listed on scholarship applications.

**How do I apply?**

For more information and to apply, visit PACCA’s website at [http://www.pacca.org/teach.html](http://www.pacca.org/teach.html) or call (717) 657-9000

### Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program

**Who is an eligible applicant?**

- PA resident working a minimum of 20 hours per week in a classroom setting as the director, assistant director or education coordinator working in a Head Start or Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts classroom.
- Earn up to $40,000/year-- Aides, Assistant Teachers, Teachers, or Assistant Directors ($50,000/year -- Directors, Family or Group Child Care Home Owners/Operators, Head Start Education Managers, Coordinators, or Site Supervisors).
- Be enrolled in a CDA, AA, BS/BA or MS/MA in Early childhood Education or related degree providing at least one credit.
- Agree to continue to work in a Keystone STARS facility for 2 months for every credit supported by Rising STARS Tuition Assistance (maximum commitment of 24 months).
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA for the classes taken or degree program in which the student is enrolled.

**What is covered?**

- Tuition assistance recipients receive funding for tuition costs only.
- Rising STARS Tuition Assistance program pays 95% of tuition costs for eligible college coursework taken by early learning professionals.
- Maximum benefit of $6,000 per individual each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).
- Eligible employers may receive reimbursement for paid release time provided to staff to attend class, study or for substitute coverage.
- Tuition costs net of other funding sources such as scholarships, stipends, discounts or grants (except Pell Grants) are used to determine the amount of assistance.

**How do I apply?**