

# Early Care and Education Workforce Relevant Resources: Qualifications & Educational Support

Below is a list of resources related to the National Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Center’s key topic area of “qualifications & educational support,” which the Center identified in its ongoing environmental scan. We found these resources through a combination of literature database searches and expert review of ECE-focused websites, blog posts, and listservs. Resources marked with an asterisk (\*) were featured in the National ECE Workforce Center website’s resource library.

This document was last updated on 3/31/2026. For a list of resources related to the Center’s other key topic areas (compensation & financial relief strategies, work environment standards, financial resources, and workforce data), visit <https://www.nationaleceworkforcecenter.org/publications/>.



## Key Topic: Qualifications & Educational Support

Policies and pathways that strengthen career pathways and access to degrees and credentials and provide consistent standards for educators to achieve higher education

Publications
*Alliance for Early Success. (2023, December). State child Care Policy Roadmap. <a href="https://earlysuccess.org/resource-centers/state-child-care-policy-roadmap/">https://earlysuccess.org/resource-centers/state-child-care-policy-roadmap/</a>
*Bipartisan Policy Center (2023, August). Apprenticeships: Building a Strong Child Care Workforce Pipeline. <a href="https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/apprenticeships-building-a-strong-child-care-workforce-pipeline/">https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/apprenticeships-building-a-strong-child-care-workforce-pipeline/</a>
*Buffett Early Childhood Institute (2024, January). Elevating Nebraska’s Early Childhood Workforce: Four Year Update Report and Recommendations of the Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission. Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska. <a href="https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/projects/buffett-nucleus/resources/reports/elevating-nebraskas-early-childhood-workforce-four-year-update.pdf">https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/projects/buffett-nucleus/resources/reports/elevating-nebraskas-early-childhood-workforce-four-year-update.pdf</a>
*Catalan, N., & Simon, E. (2024). The Impact of Cohort Learning: A Case Study of an ECEPTS Early Educator Apprenticeship. ECEPTS. <a href="https://ecepts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/The-Impact-of-Cohort-Learning-Case-Study.pdf">https://ecepts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/The-Impact-of-Cohort-Learning-Case-Study.pdf</a>
*CCEEPRA Research Translation (2023). Supporting the Professional Development of Infant and Toddler Teachers and Caregivers. OPRE Report #2023-220. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <a href="https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/2023-220%20Supporting%20PD%20of%20IT%20Workforce_corrected.pdf">https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/2023-220%20Supporting%20PD%20of%20IT%20Workforce_corrected.pdf</a>
*Dichter, H. & Libetti, A. (2021). Improving Child Care Compensation Backgrounder. The Build Initiative. <a href="https://buildinitiative.org/resource-library/backgrounder-on-compensation-in-child-care/">https://buildinitiative.org/resource-library/backgrounder-on-compensation-in-child-care/</a>
*Gonzalez, K., Litkowski, E., Tarullo, L., Choe, J., & Bernstein, S. (2024). Spotlight on the Head Start Workforce: Program Strategies to Improve Well-Being and Increase Retention. OPRE Report 2024-094. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <a href="https://acf.gov/opre/report/spotlight-head-start-workforce-program-strategies-improve-well-being-and-increase">https://acf.gov/opre/report/spotlight-head-start-workforce-program-strategies-improve-well-being-and-increase</a>
*Grace, C., Thomburg, K., Keith, S. N., Altman, M., & Boyle, A. (2024). Strengthening Support for Our Youngest Children: Steps for Improving Head Start. Southern Education Foundation. <a href="https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED662974.pdf">https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED662974.pdf</a>

\*Greenberg, E., Nelson, V., Doromal, J., Sandstrom, H., Bose, S., & Lauderback, E. (2023). Toward Pay Equity: A Case Study of Washington, DC's Wage Boost for Early Childhood Educators. The Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/toward%20pay%20equity.pdf>

\*Hsueh, J., Taylor, H., Maier, M., & Roach, S. (2023). Influences on the Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement of the Child Care and Early Education Workforce: A Conceptual Framework. MDRC: Building and Sustaining the Child Care and Early Education Workforce (Base) Project. [https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/41672\\_hhs\\_OPRE\\_base\\_brief\\_conceptualframework\\_v14\\_508.pdf](https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/41672_hhs_OPRE_base_brief_conceptualframework_v14_508.pdf)

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\*Maier, M., & Roach, S. (2024). What Do We Know About Building and Sustaining the Child Care and Early Education Workforce? Cross-Cutting Themes from a Literature Review, Environmental Scan, and Data Scan. MDRC. <https://www.mdrc.org/work/publications/what-do-we-know-about-building-and-sustaining-child-care-and-early-education> (2024). Base.

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\*National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (2023). Peer Support as a Strategy for Enhancing Home-based Child Care Providers' Well-being and Engagement in Publicly Funded Systems, Quality Improvement and Leadership. <https://www.nationaleceworkforcecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Peer-Support-as-a-Strategy.pdf>

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\*Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession. (2020). <https://powertotheprofession.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/power-to-profession-framework-03312020-web.pdf>

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