

CHANGES TO T.E.A.C.H. AND RISING STARS TUITION ASSISTANCE

A STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ECE WORKFORCE

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) supports degree attainment for early childhood educators through two scholarship programs in Pennsylvania, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood PENNSYLVANIA and Rising STARS Tuition Assistance (RSTA). In order to maximize Federal and State funding and streamline the scholarship options in PA, the requirements for eligibility under each program are changing for the 2019-20 program year. Effective July 1, 2019, the following criteria will be used to determine eligibility under each scholarship program:

RISING STARS TUITION ASSISTANCE

PURPOSE: To provide short term support to candidates pursuing academic credits that articulate into an endorsement, credential or certificate that is recognized by OCDEL and leads to an increased Career Pathway designation.

Eligible Programs:

- In state, credit bearing CDA coursework and completion support: Infant/Toddler, Preschool and Family Child Care
- Coursework supporting Infant/Toddler Credential, School-Age Credential and Director's Credential (Undergrad or Graduate Level)
- Fees associated with obtaining PA's Association for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement (IECMH)

Ineligible Programs:

- Degree programs

Other:

- Head Start/Early Head Start staff funded solely by Federal and/or State Head Start dollars

Note: In order to ensure a smooth transition, AA and BA Degree and PreK-4 Teacher Certification (Level I and Level II) seekers currently receiving funding from Rising STARS will be given FY 19-20 to transition to T.E.A.C.H. or another financial aid resource.

For more information on Rising STARS Tuition Assistance, visit www.pakeys.org.



T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® PENNSYLVANIA

PURPOSE: To provide consistent, long-term support to candidates pursuing degrees in the field of early childhood education, particularly those working for employers who are committed to investing in their education.

Eligible programs at T.E.A.C.H. partnering 2- and 4-year Higher Education Institutions:

- Associate degrees in Early Childhood Education (or an equivalent)
- Bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education (or an equivalent)
- Prek-4 Teacher Certification (Level I and Level II)

For a list of T.E.A.C.H. Partnering Higher Education Institutions, visit www.pacca.org/colleges_universities.php.

Ineligible Programs:

- Master's Degrees
- Related Degrees
- Non-degree focused coursework

Note: In order to ensure a smooth transition, those already pursuing CDA, Director or Infant/Toddler Credentials under T.E.A.C.H. will be able to continue for FY 19-20. In July 2020 they will be transitioned to Rising STARS.

For more information on T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® PENNSYLVANIA, visit www.pacca.org.

