

About the Pennsylvania School-Age Professional Credential

The Pennsylvania School-Age Professional Credential is administered by the Pennsylvania Key in collaboration with the statewide Early Learning Resource Centers. It has been developed to promote quality services for children and families by providing specific standards, professional development, and evaluation of school-age practitioners. This credential is recognized in the Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement System as meeting Level A on the Career Pathway.

The Pennsylvania School-Age Professional Credential is modeled after the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. Candidates participating in the School-Age Professional Credential process must:

- Meet eligibility requirements which include working in a Department of Human Services certified facility providing service to school-age children (5-12 years-old); a high school diploma or GED credential; and have worked 480 hours with school-age children.
- Demonstrate 120 hours of coursework addressing the 13 Functional Areas.
- Collect information to include the following:
 - **Portfolio** – contains an autobiographical statement, a program description, and three written examples of his/her competence in each of 13 Functional Areas.
 - **Resource File** - A collection of 33 resource items. These items are not to duplicate items in the *Portfolio*.
 - **Observations** – Three observations of the Candidate are conducted [by Advisor, Parent Community/Representative and SAC Assessor] while working with children of this age group.
 - **Family Questionnaires** - The Candidate must coordinate with the Parent/Community Representative the distribution and collection of family questionnaires.
- Participate in a Local Assessment Review Meeting. The Candidate and the SAC Assessor meet to review and discuss the information collected about the Candidate. The SAC Assessor will conduct an observation of and interview with the Candidate. The Candidate has an opportunity to orally present his/her learning as demonstrated in their *Portfolio* and *Resource File* through an interview process.

For more information about coursework being offered in your region contact your [Early Learning Resource Center](#) (ELRC). Find your ELRC at www.raiseyourstar.org.

For more information about the Pennsylvania School-Age Professional Credential, contact Betsy O. Saatman at betsaa@pakeys.org or 484-955-5909.