Pennsylvania's Early Childhood Education Career Pathway Levels and Qualifying Achievements

Entry Level

- High School Diploma or GED
- Documentation to verify high school enrollment
- Documentation to verify DHS certification aide status

Level A

- Holds a current CDA certificate from the Council for Professional Recognition
- Current School Age Credential
- 9 Early Childhood Education (ECE) credits

Level B

- ECE focused ASB or AST
- AA/AS in ECE
- AA/AS/BA/BS in related field with 18 ECE credits
- AA/AS/BA/BS in an unrelated field with 30 ECE credits
- Elementary Ed Degree with 12 ECE credits

Level C

- BA/BS in ECE
- BA/BS related field with 30 ECE credits
- Elementary Ed with 18 ECE credits
- Any field with Prek-4 Certification

Level D

Master's in ECE

Meets Level C AND:

- Achieved a Master's Degree in a related field.
- Master's Degree in Elementary Education with 18 ECE credits
- Master's Degree in any field & PreK-4 certification

Rising Level A

- Verified Child Development Associate (CDA) ready Career and Technology (CTE) graduate OR Enrolled CDA coursework
- Enrolled School-Age Professional Credential (SAPC)
- Enrolled in an OCDEL-Approved Certificate or Credential
- Enrolled ECE Program OR 6 Early Childhood Credits (ECE) credits

Level A Plus

Meets Level A and has completed:

 12 or more ECE credits towards an AA/AAS degree in ECE

OR is a Level A AND currently has a one of the following:

- Director's Credential
- Infant Toddler Mental Health Endorsement
- Infant Toddler Credential
- Apprenticeship Completion Certificate

Level B Plus

Meets Level B AND has completed:

 12 or more ECE credits towards a BA/BS degree in ECE

OR currently has one of the following:

- Director's Credential
- Infant Toddler Mental Health Endorsement
- Infant Toddler Credential
- Current School Age Credential
- Apprenticeship Completion Certificate

Level C Plus

Meets Level C AND has completed:

 12 or more ECE credits towards a master's degree in ECE

OR currently has one of the following:

- Director's Credential
- Infant Toddler Mental Health Endorsement
- Infant Toddler Credential
- Current School Age Credential
- Apprenticeship Completion Certificate

Level E

- Ph. D/Ed. D in an ECE related area
- Doctorate in related field and meets Level C or Level D

NOTE: All verified credits must be from a regionally accredited institution.

