

WV STARS Career Pathway

★Level VIII★

***Requirements:** Advanced (master's or doctorate) degree in an early care and education field *or* advanced degree with 18 college credit hours in early care and education and either 90 practicum hours or 1 year of relevant occupational experience *or* advanced degree and 5 years of relevant occupational experience.

***Abilities:** Directly involved in the activities of state, regional and/or national groups; contribute to the formation, evaluation and implementation of policies within the early childhood field.



★Level VII★

***Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in an early care and education field *or* bachelor's degree with 15 college credit hours in early care and education and either 90 practicum contact hours or 1 year of relevant occupational experience *or* bachelor's degree and 3 years of relevant occupational experience.

***Abilities:** Develop, select, and evaluate the early childhood program; apply theory into practice.



★Level VI★

***Requirements:** Associate's degree in an early care and education field *or* associate's degree with 12 college credit hours in early care and education courses *or* associate's degree and 2 years of relevant occupational experience *or* 64 college credit hours with 12 college credit hours in early care and education courses *or* 64 college credit hours with 2 years of relevant occupational experience.

***Abilities:** Make curricular decisions that conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.



★Level V★

***Requirements:** Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) certificate *or* other comparable certificate program in early care and education *or* 28-63 college credit hours, with 9 college credit hours in early care and education *or* 28-63 college credit hours and 1 year of relevant occupational experience.

***Abilities:** Plan and adapt programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.



★Level IV★

***Requirements:** Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent *or* 12 college credits in early care and education and 300 clock hours of relevant occupational experience *or* 4 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program.

***Abilities:** Practice and implement programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.



★Level III★

***Requirements:** WV Training Certificate in Early Care and Education (WVTCECE) which includes completion of 120 clock hours of registered training through WV STARS *or* 120 completed training hours required for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or equivalent *or* 3 completed semesters of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) program *or* completed 4 courses of the WVDE Child Development Specialist (CDS) Career and Technical Education program.

***Abilities:** Practice programming that conforms to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies.



★Level II★

***Requirements:** At least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and 0-1 years of experience.

***Abilities:** Understand and practice Core Knowledge and Core Competencies with direction and instruction or through sponsorship/affiliation with a professional organization or qualified mentor.



★Level I★

***Requirements:** At least 16 years old and enrolled in High School *or* GED preparation classes.

***Abilities:** Conform to Core Knowledge and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals by following supervisory direction and instruction.