

# Connecticut's Early Childhood Teacher Credential (ECTC)

## What is the ECTC?

The ECTC is a credential that is issued through the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood which validates that an individual meets teacher competencies in six standards areas.

The credential is awarded at two levels:

1. Associate's Degree level with an endorsement(s)
  - a. Infant/toddler
  - b. Preschool
  - c. Both
2. Bachelor Degree level with an endorsement(s)
  - a. Infant/toddler
  - b. Preschool
  - c. Both

## Why the ECTC?

- Free and open to all individuals working in the early childhood field
- Improves teaching and learning in early childhood classrooms by aligning college coursework to national standards
- Provides an individual with documentation that they meet the legislative teacher requirements for publicly-funded programs (School Readiness, Child Day Care Contract and State Head Start)
- Supports competency-based professional learning
- Portable across programs

*After July 1, 2017, individuals that did not graduate from an [approved institution](#) and do not have a grandfather endorsement through the Connecticut Early Childhood Professional Registry must submit documents for review through the Individual Review Route to become a Qualified Staff Member (QSM) in a state-funded program.*

Connecticut approved colleges and universities are aligned to meet ECTC competencies.

## How Do I Get the ECTC?

### Approved College Route

1. An individual graduates from an [approved higher education institution](#)
2. Membership in the Connecticut Early Childhood Professional Registry: [www.ccacregistry.org](http://www.ccacregistry.org)
3. Apply online through your Registry account: [www.ccacregistry.org](http://www.ccacregistry.org)

### Individual Review Route (IRR)

#### Qualifications:

- Currently working in the early childhood field or have at least one year of experience.
- Graduated from a non-approved higher education institution with an early childhood degree or non-related Associate's or Bachelor's degree or graduated from an approved college prior to approval date.

#### Process:

1. Membership in the Connecticut Early Childhood Professional Registry: [www.ccacregistry.org](http://www.ccacregistry.org)
2. Apply for IRR ECTC through Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC). Contact Kellyn Jeremy at [IRRECTC@ctaeyc.org](mailto:IRRECTC@ctaeyc.org)
3. Transcript review by Office of Early Childhood registry staff
4. Develop portfolio either as a member of cohort or self-directed (self-paced process takes between six months and one year)
5. Portfolio reviewed and rated as meeting competency standards assigned
6. CAEYC issues a portfolio completion letter

**Questions? We can help!**  
**Call 1-800-832-7784**



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I am a certified teacher, do I need the ECTC?**

**A:** If you hold a current, acceptable State Teacher Certificate listed below you **do not** need the ECTC, regardless if you work for a public school or not.

OEC Approved Teacher Certifications
#113 Integrated PK – Grade 3
#112 Integrated B – K
#065 Comprehensive Special Education PK – Grade 12
#001 PK – Grade 8
#002 PK – Grade 6
#003 PK – Grade 3
#008 PK - K

**Q: Is the ECTC like a State Teacher Certification Endorsement?**

**A:** No, the ECTC is not the same and is not like a State Teacher Certification Endorsement. The ECTC will not qualify anyone to work in a role where a State Teacher Certification Endorsement is required. The ECTC is a document that validates that you meet the legislated education requirements for the role of the teacher in an early childhood program accepting state funds. Teacher certification has other requirements, including multiple state tests.

**Q: What types of documents prove that I meet the education requirements for the role of teacher in a publicly-funded preschool program?**

**A:** The following documentations demonstrate you meet the educational requirements for the role of teacher:

Timeline	Evidence for Role of Teacher
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current SDE certification from approved list</li> <li>• CT Early Childhood Teacher Credential Level A or B</li> <li>• Registry card indicating ladder level 7 or above with 12 early childhood credits verified by the Registry</li> </ul>
July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current SDE certification from approved list</li> <li>• CT Early Childhood Teacher Credential Level A or B</li> <li>• A Registry card or OEC Early Childhood Professional Registry report indicating QSM eligibility and appropriate expiration date</li> </ul>
July 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current SDE certification from approved list</li> <li>• CT Early Childhood Teacher Credential Level B</li> <li>• A Registry card or OEC Early Childhood Professional Registry report indicating QSM eligibility and appropriate expiration date</li> </ul>

**Q: What if I graduated from an out-of-state college with a degree in early childhood?**

**A:** Connecticut does not approve out-of-state colleges, even for teacher certification. If you have a degree in early childhood or any other type of degree, you would apply for the Individual Review Route (IRR ECTC) process through the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC). If your transcripts align well with the ECTC standards, you could be issued the ECTC. If parts of your transcripts do not align with the ECTC standards, then you may be asked to address some standards through a portfolio.