

About Education Awards

Background

DCYF uses the Professional Development Achievement framework to recognize and reward the educational achievements of all early learning professionals.

Apply for an Award

Once you complete your education application in MERIT and have your education verified, you may be eligible to earn education awards for the following verified achievements:

- Highest level of education
- Up to four ECE (*early childhood education or early care and education*) majors
- Up to three ECE certificates and credentials

To verify your education, follow the steps outlined here:

https://del.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/ProfessionalDevelopment/Complete_your_Education_Application_in_MERIT.pdf

To receive your award, you must have a Statewide Vendor Number. If you do not have a statewide vendor number, you can find the application along with instructions here:

www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/licensed-provider/vendor-number

Movement

After you receive an initial education award, you may earn additional awards for movement. Movement is defined as a degree or ECE accomplishment that you attain or complete *after* you first reported your education in MERIT and had it verified. In order to qualify as movement, newly obtained degrees must be higher than the previously verified degree; they may not be the same level of degree with a different major.

Award Details

Below the full list of available awards:

Degree Award—available for highest level of education		
	GED (General Educational Development)	\$50
	High school diploma	\$50
	Associate's degree	\$100
	Bachelor's degree	\$200
	Master's degree	\$300
	Doctoral degree	\$400
ECE Major Award—available for up to four verified ECE majors		
	Associate's degree with ECE major	\$100
	Bachelor's degree with ECE major	\$100
	Master's degree with ECE major	\$100
	Doctoral degree with ECE major	\$100
ECE Certificates & Credentials Award—available for up to three verified ECE certificates & credentials		
	Washington State ECE Initial Certificate	\$50
	Washington State ECE Short Certificate of Specialization	\$50
	Washington State ECE Certificate	\$50
	Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	\$50
	Home Visitor Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential	\$50
	1 year ECE certificate/diploma (minimum of 45 credits)	\$50
	MACTE accredited teacher credential in infant/toddler (I/T)	\$50

MACTE accredited teacher credential in ECE	\$50
Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) diploma in assistants to infancy (A to I): covers birth–3 years of age	\$50
Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) diploma in primary: covers 3–6 years of age	\$50
13 Military Modules	\$50
Other certificate equal to a minimum of 12 ECE credits	\$50

What is an ECE major?

DCYF recognizes the following ECE (Early Childhood Education /Early Care and Education) majors:

- Early childhood education
- Human development with a specialization in ECE
- Children’s studies/childhood education
- Elementary education with one of the following endorsements:
 - Early childhood education
 - Early childhood special education
 - P-3
 - P-3 special education

If your degree major is not listed above, but you believe that it is an ECE major, DCYF can review your transcripts in more detail to see whether your major aligns with Washington State Core Competencies and ECE Credential Standards.

Contact Information

For questions about Education Awards, contact the DCYF professional development registry team at MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov or call 1.866.482.4352 and select option 5.