



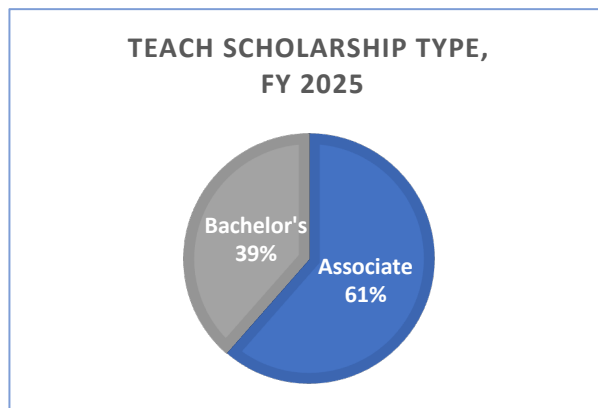
TEACH Early Childhood® MINNESOTA, a project of Child Care Aware of Minnesota, is a scholarship program that helps early childhood and school-age care educators increase their levels of education, compensation, and commitment to the field by earning college credits and degrees. It is a national program licensed by TEACH Early Childhood® National Center and funded with federal funds granted to Child Care Aware from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning. Scholarships cover most of the tuition and book fees for students pursuing a degree in child development or early childhood education. Scholarships can also help pay for college credits while working toward a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. TEACH can also work with Spanish-speaking participants to complete their Associate’s degree in Spanish.



MINNESOTA
A Program of Child Care Aware® of Minnesota

The Reach:

- In State Fiscal Year 2025, TEACH helped 294 early educators increase their levels of education, compensation, and commitment to the field. Forty-seven percent of these were first-generation college students. Almost 40% of scholarships went to people of color.
- TEACH has built and sustained relationships with 29 Minnesota colleges and universities that offer Associate’s, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Early Childhood.
- TEACH gave out almost \$750,000 in scholarship support in State Fiscal Year 2025.

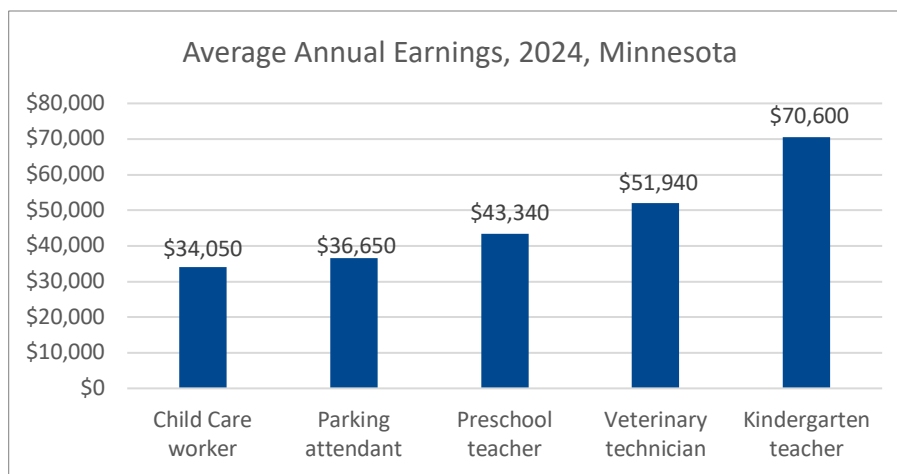


The Results:

- Wages increased an average of 11% for associate degree recipients and 12% for those seeking a bachelor's degree once an annual bonus was awarded. The average wage for a TEACH recipient working in a center classroom is \$20 an hour, higher than the overall average wage.
- In FY 2025, average turnover rates were 3% for those with associate degrees and 7% for those with bachelor's degrees, much lower than the average for the field.

The Need:

- Average wages for child care workers are woefully low, below those of parking lot attendants or veterinary assistants. Kindergarten teachers make over twice as much as child care workers, and much more than preschool teachers. TEACH helps raise these wages, as higher credentials lead to higher salaries.



From U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (2024)

- A recent Minnesota survey found that overall early educator turnover was 30%,¹ much higher than for TEACH recipients, whose turnover rates are in the single digits.

Recipient Testimonials:

I am so excited to be graduating with my certificate in Early Childhood and I am proud to say I am continuing on in the Fall for my AAS degree. Taking these courses has done so much for me and the children I care for. I have learned an immense amount of information which is making me a better child care provider, but it has also given me something that is just for me, something to take pride in because I am so passionate about caring for children and I choose to work hard on my coursework. I am so thankful for all of it.

- Sara, Family Child Care Provider

TEACH allowed me to get my BA in early childhood, which gave me the confidence to talk to families about developmental concerns. I can talk with families confidently about their children during conferences and with that confidence comes respect from parents that I am more than just a “babysitter” or “daycare.”

- Lynn, Child Care Center Teacher

¹ Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, *Minnesota Early Care and Education Workforce: An Overview*. March 2024. Accessed on February 6, 2026 at <https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/publications/trends/march-2024/early-care.jsp>