



ECE Scholarship Program

Purpose of Program: The Early Childhood Educators Scholarship program is jointly administered by the Office of Student Financial Assistance at the Department of Higher Education and EEC. The purpose of the scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to educators working in the early education and care field and out of school time field in Massachusetts to earn a degree in early childhood education or a related field. Awards are based on Institution of Higher Education chosen and number of credits selected by student.

Program Demographics:

FY2009	\$4M	1018 applicants approved by EEC	57% Attending Public Institution 43% Attending Private Institution
FY2008	\$4M	980 applicants approved by EEC	54% Attending Public Institution 46% Attending Private Institution
FY2007	\$3M	743 applicants approved by EEC	55% Attending Public Institution 45% Attending Private Institution
FY2006	\$1M	614 applicants approved by EEC	59% Attending Public Institution 41% Attending Private Institution

Recipient Demographics¹:

Ethnicity:

	FY2009	FY2008	FY2007	FY2006
White (non-Hispanic)	65%	63%	65%	65%
Hispanic/Latino	14%	16%	15%	15%
Black/African American (non-Hispanic)	11%	11%	10%	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Indian Subcontinent	2%	2%	2%	2%
Cape Verdean	<1%	1%	1%	1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Multi-racial/Other	3%	2%	1%	1%
Did Not Respond	3%	4%	6%	7%

Position Title²:

	FY2009	FY2008	FY2006
Teacher	36%	36%	36%
Lead Teacher	22%	21%	22%
Family Child Care Provider	11%	12%	15%
Assistant Teacher/Aide/Paraprofessional	8%	8%	7%
Director	6%	6%	6%

¹ Data for FY2006 – FY2008 provided by the MA Office of Student Financial Assistance July 1, 2008.

² Data analyzed from FY2007 did not contain this information; data analyzed from FY2006 does not contain all of the same categories of more recent ECE Scholarship years.



MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
 Early Education and Care**

Assistant Director	2%	2%	2%
Program/Site Coordinator	2%	2%	-
Group Leader	1%	1%	-
Assistant Program/Site Coordinator	<1%	0%	-
Family Child Care Assistant	<1%	<1%	-
Multiple Positions	5%	6%	-
Other ³ Position	5%	5%	13%

Program Successes, Challenges, and Changes:

- Since the beginning of this program, OFSA and EEC have collaborated in new ways. In FY09, now both part of the Education Secretariat this collaboration is expected to strengthen.
- Efforts have been made by both agencies to reduce award wait times for applicants and institutions of higher education. OSFA has provided institutions access to real-time data on approved applicants. EEC has also expedited their approval process and issues student lists to participating Building Careers colleges.
- Administering a scholarship program jointly has posed some challenges since both entities must approve an individual before they can be awarded a scholarship.
- In an attempt to streamline the process the application was made online in FY08; this created unintended consequences and delays in applicant employment verification. In FY09 paper applications were used to reduce verification time.
- In FY08 EEC expanded the role of the Building Careers Coordinator to include supporting ECE Scholarship recipients at participating Building Careers colleges and universities.
- In FY09 EEC's Board voted to further define "related degree" for eligible degrees to align with EEC's licensing regulations; increase academic accountability of recipients including a minimum GPA requirement and consequences for recipients who repeatedly withdraw from scholarship funded courses.

Emerging Performance Measures:

Measure	Plan
# of educators who earn a post-secondary degree	The program has not existed long enough to have educators reach this milestone yet. We will begin reporting on this once data is available.
# of educators who stay in the field after earning a post-secondary degree	This will require a follow-up evaluation study to determine.
Income brackets of scholarship recipients	Data collection efforts are currently being refined.
# or % of educators who increased their certification level through participation in the scholarship program	Data not currently collected.

Further Information:

Katie DeVita
 Professional Development Specialist
 MA Department of Early Education and Care
Kate.devita@state.ma.us p: 617-988-7827

³ Examples of other position titles listed by applicants include: Education Coordinator, Home Visitor, School Age Counselor, Treatment Coordinator, Reading Specialist, Disabilities Specialist, and Family Support Services.