



We are a Certified Profession!

We are well on our way to becoming a certified profession! Nearly 11,000 Early Educators are certified in all 100 counties in our state. And 19,000 more applications have been submitted to the NC Institute for Child Development Professionals (www.ncicdp.org) by Early Educators in our state to become certified. That means that 75% - 85% of our teaching workforce will be certified in 2011!

What is Early Educator Certification (EEC)? EEC is acknowledgement of an individual's verified level of educational achievement, based on a standardized scale. EEC is a fee-based, field wide professional certification for those working directly with, working on the behalf of or intending working with children aged birth to twelve. EEC is a professional certification granted by a non-profit organization which is representative of the field.

Early Educator Certification

- Recognizes an individual's education
- Rewards education earned
- Reduces education documentation costs to individuals, employers & systems
- Increases access to discounted supplies and services for certified Early Educators (EEC Rewards)
- Creates efficiencies across state agencies and services

Is continuing education required to maintain EEC? Yes. As with all occupations, ongoing education is required to stay up-to-date on the latest research and resources to inform practice, increase knowledge and grow skills. Certified individuals have three or five years to complete their renewal requirements, based on their EEC level.

How are EEC renewal requirements defined? Renewal requirements are based on the individual's EEC level and mirror the amount of required training mandated for individuals working in a licensed child care program. In July 2010 the validity period for renewal was expanded from two to three years and the number of [CEUs](#) or college credits required for certified individual was reduced.

What is the number of credits or hours I must learn to maintain my certification? To maintain EEC, individuals certified on the Early Care and Education Professional Scale must continue their professional development by completing four semester hours or six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or a combination of the two within their certification validity period. Those certified on the School Age Professional Scale must complete two semester hours or three Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or a combination of the two within their certification validity period.

How are CEUs different from trainings or workshops? Workshops are typically one or two hours long. Attendees receive a certificate of attendance that denotes the number of "clock or contact hours" earned by attending the workshop. One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is defined as ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education. To count toward renewal, Early Educators must take CEUs worth .5 (5 contact hours) or more.

Can I take a CEU over time? Yes. CEUs may be earned by participating in an approved CEU session that equals 5 total hours or .5 CEUs. The hours may be earned over a period time or in one session or a conference. The total may be earned in a variety of ways. For instance an Early Educator may attend a 5 hour session at a conference, may enroll in an online CEU session that requires participation in five, one-hour blocks or attend an in-person session for 2 hours one evening, for 2 hours on another evening and complete an assignment outside the actual session to complete a total of 5 contact hours.

For more information about EEC renewal requirements visit: <http://ncicdp.org/certification-licensure/renewal/>.