

Child Care WAGE\$® Program

Supplement Levels

Level	Education Required • All hours are semester hours.	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
13	Doctorate Degree with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,250
12 12	Doctorate Degree with at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours or Master's Degree with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,250
11 11	Master's Degree with at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours or Bachelor's Degree with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,250
10 10	Bachelor's Degree with at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours or 90 hours toward a Bachelor's Degree with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$4,500
9 9 9	Doctorate Degree with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours or Master's Degree with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours or Bachelor's Degree with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours	\$1,875	\$2,500	\$4,000
8 8*	Associate Degree with at least 24 birth to five focused semester hours or Doctorate, Master's, or Bachelor's Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours)	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,500
7* 7*	Associate Degree with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours or 57 hours of general education with at least 24 birth to five focused semester hours	\$1,325	\$1,750	\$2,875
6* 6*	Associate Degree with at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours or 45 hours of general education with at least 18 birth to five focused semester hours	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$2,250
5* 5*	Associate Degree with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours or 70 hours of general education with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours	\$950	\$1,250	\$2,025
4* 4* 4*	36 semester hours of general education with at least 12 birth to five focused semester hours or Associate Degree (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours) or 70 semester hours of general education (less than 6 birth to five focused semester hours)	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,800
3* 3* 3*	24 hours of general education with at least 6 birth to five focused semester hours or Early Childhood, Infant-Toddler Care or Preschool Certificate or 16 birth to five focused semester hours	\$600	\$800	\$1,200
2* 2* 2*	18 semester hours of general education with at least 4 birth to five focused semester hours or CDA Credential (Child Development Associate Credential) earned for at least 12 semester hours or 12 birth to five focused semester hours	\$450	\$600	\$600
1 1 1	6 birth to five focused semester hours or Completion of NC Early Childhood Credential coursework or Completion of NC Family Child Care Credential Coursework (for family child care only)	NA	NA	NA

Supplement totals shown represent annual awards for full-time eligibility.

* Temporary levels of education. Teachers and directors awarded at one of these levels must move up to a higher level within two years to retain eligibility. Deadlines will be reestablished at each temporary level. Family child care providers have three years to achieve the education needed to move up.

Level 1 is unfunded by WAGE\$. Early Educator Certification uses a similar scale and the programs have comparable level numbers to help participants across programs.

The following notes apply to multiple levels throughout the scale:

- "Focus" generally means coursework with extensive content related to children ages birth to five.
- General education, such as English, Math and Science, is coursework earned toward a two- or four-year degree.

To be eligible for at least one six-month payment during the fiscal year, applicants must:

- work in a county that uses Smart Start funds to support the Child Care WAGE\$® Program
- work in a licensed child care program (center, home or public school site)
- earn below the income cap selected by the funding partnership
- have one of the education levels listed here (from regionally accredited schools)
- work at least six months in the same child care program
- be employed at this same child care program when funding is available and a final confirmation has been completed

Supplement tier for each funding year is determined by the local Smart Start partnership for each county. To learn the tier currently being supported in your county, or for additional information, call **919-967-3272** or visit us on the web at www.childcareservices.org.



NCDHHS

Division of Child Development
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