



QUALIFICATIONS FOR CENTER-BASED TEACHERS AND ASSISTANT TEACHERS

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHER IN A DC CHILD DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Starting December 2023, a **teacher** in a licensed child development center in the District of Columbia must hold **one** of the credentials below:

1. An associate degree (or higher) in early childhood education, early childhood development, child and family studies or a closely related field; **or**
2. An associate degree (or higher) with at least 24 semester credit hours in early childhood education and one year of supervised occupational experience working with children.

Table 1 compares the current education requirement for child development facility teachers to the new requirement that will be in effect in December 2023.

Table 1

CURRENT EDUCATION CREDENTIAL REQUIRED	NEW EDUCATION CREDENTIAL REQUIRED (DECEMBER 2023)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 semester credit hours with 15 semester hours in early childhood education and two years of supervised work experience or high school diploma and a current Child Development Associate (CDA) credential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate degree in early childhood education, early childhood development, child and family studies or a closely related field <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate degree (or higher) in any subject area with at least 24 semester credit hours in early childhood

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT TEACHER IN A DC CHILD DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Starting December 2023, an **assistant teacher** in a licensed child development center in the District of Columbia must hold **one** of the credentials below:

1. A high school diploma **and** a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; **or**
2. An associate degree (or higher) **in any field**.

Table 2 compares the current education requirement for child development facility assistant teachers to the new requirement that will be in effect in December 2023.

Table 2

CURRENT EDUCATION CREDENTIAL REQUIRED	NEW EDUCATION CREDENTIAL REQUIRED (DECEMBER 2023)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school diploma or its equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDA credential <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate degree (or higher) in any subject area.

If you need support to meet these requirements, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), University of the District of Columbia and other colleges and community organizations in the District offer a variety of [training and scholarship programs](#) that can help you earn a degree. If you are still pursuing your education or otherwise do not fully meet the requirements by December 2023, your center director can apply for a [general waiver](#) on your behalf. Additionally, if you have continuously served in the same (or comparable) role/position for the past 10 years (since December 2006 or earlier) without a significant gap in service, your center director can apply for a [10-year continuous service waiver](#).

Please note that waivers are processed on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed—so we strongly encourage you to take advantage of educational opportunities that are available.

If you need assistance developing an individualized plan or are unsure of how to get started, contact the ECE Help Desk. Support is available in various languages.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT!

ECE Help Desk Contact Information: ECehelpdesk@dc.gov or [\(202\) 478-5903](tel:(202)478-5903)

ON DEMAND	BY APPOINTMENT
Call or email and receive a response immediately or within 24 hours	Call or email to schedule an individualized appointment based on your personal availability