MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Directors: Connecting Educators with College Courses

EEC Teacher Certification Requirements



606 CMR 7.09c Educator Qualifications

2. **Teacher**

a. Must be at least 21 years of age or have a high school diploma or equivalent and meet one of the following sets of requirements:

i. have successfully completed three credits in category Child Growth and Development and have nine months of work experience or one practicum; or

ii. have a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential; or

iii. have graduated from a two-year high school vocational program in early childhood education, approved by the Department for both the education and experience requirements and have been evaluated and recommended by the program instructor.

Considerations



Teacher certification requires a minimum of **9 months of classroom work experience**



It can be helpful and less overwhelming for educators to **get accustomed to their new work** before starting a class



Begin registration **before courses fill, and with sufficient time** to complete required paperwork



Educators must initiate the registration process and follow subsequent steps **themselves**

Courses Begin	Registration
Fall Semester (September)	April/May
Spring Semester (January)	October/November
Summer Semester I (May)	March/April

Selecting a college



Convenient and accessible to work or home



Meets language needs



EEC Career Pathways

- Map of the 15 community colleges
- List of which community college serves each town
- Contact information for Career Pathways Coordinators

Getting Started

Massachusetts public community colleges offer funded Child Growth and Development courses to ECE educators.



Educators must **apply and register** through the college process (Career Pathways coordinators can provide support)



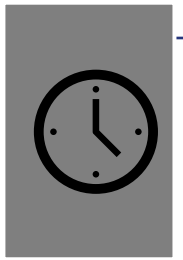
Educators may have to ask their **high school to send their transcripts to the college**



It may take **several weeks** to complete the required steps for enrollment- start the process early



At some colleges, students may need to take placement testing, even for a single course like Child Growth and Development



The enrollment cycle begins **3 months before the start of the semester**

What to expect?

Students need access to, and basic understanding, of technology

Career Pathways Coordinators can support these needs

Students will need to read and write at a college level

A 3-credit course requires 9-12 hours a week, including attending class and completing assignments

Different Formats for different Learning Styles

- 15 weeks **OR** Accelerated, in 7 weeks
- In-person **OR** Virtual **OR** through a Learning Management System (LMS)

Online Asynchronous Courses

- Not self-paced
- Weekly readings and assignments with due dates
- Discussion forum posts
- Equal workload to an in-person course

What's Next?

Child Growth and Development is the only course offered as a funded stand-alone course

Educators who want to earn a Lead Teacher Certification from EEC should enroll in the ECE Foundational Certificate, for which there are funding options

The certificate contains the courses needed for Lead Teacher Certification.	Educators must matriculate into the college to earn the certificate.	Educators may need to apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA and ECE Scholarship