



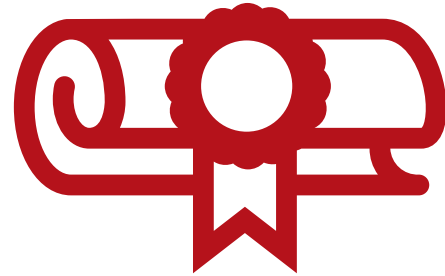
MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**



Early Childhood Educator Scholarship

2026-2027 Information Sessions

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Scholarship



The ECE Scholarship is a collaboration between the **Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)** and the **Department of Higher Education**. It is intended to support the early childhood education workforce advance their careers through higher education.

Support for College

The ECE Scholarship is financial aid towards **college certificates and degrees** at eligible Massachusetts colleges and universities.

You are eligible to apply for financial assistance if you work, or plan to begin working at, an EEC licensed or funded:

- Family Child Care (FCC)
- Center-based program
- After School/Out-of-School Time (ASOST) program
- Residential Placement program
- Contracted Family Child Care (FCC) System

Eligible Majors*

Major	
Child and Family Studies	Psychology
Child Care Administration	Elementary Education
Child Development	Special Education
Child Guidance	Social Work
Child Psychology	Family Studies
Early Childhood Education	Human Services

*Title of selected major must match one of these exactly.

Eligible graduate/master's programs include these same majors as above, as well as Early Childhood Research, Policy, and Practice; Education Entrepreneurship; and Learning Sciences.

Award Amounts

Institution Type	Award Per Credit	3 Credits (1 class)	6 Credits (2 classes)	9 Credits (3 classes)
Public University	\$750	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$6,750
Private College/ University	\$750	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$6,750
State College	\$550	\$1,650	\$3,300	\$4,950
Community College	\$350	\$1,050	\$2,100	\$3,150

Get Started with the ECE Scholarship

Action Steps:

1. Confirm eligibility requirements

Complete FAFSA	Apply to the college of your choice (two- or four- year institution)
2. Wait 72 hours after PROCESSING	
Complete ECE Scholarship Application	

3. Attend to emails and messages from the college and MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Eligibility Requirements



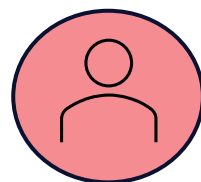
Be a Massachusetts resident for at least **1 year**



Applied for financial aid through FAFSA or equivalent and not in default of any federal or state loans



Be **employed** as an educator or provider
OR
be a **prospective** educator or provider (with 1 year to secure employment) in a program licensed by EEC



Be a “High School Completer”, U.S Citizen, permanent legal resident, or Title IV-eligible non-citizen



Be a matriculated student in an approved program, pursuing your first bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree



Sign an agreement to continue employment as an educator or provider after degree completion

Complete the FAFSA or equivalent

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA[®] Form ▾

Grants and Loans ▾

Loan Repayment ▾

Loan Forgiveness ▾



Log In | Create Account

2026–27 FAFSA[®] Form Now Available!

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2026–27
FAFSA[®] Form

Start New Form

Edit a 2026–27
FAFSA[®] Form

Edit Existing Forms

Accept an Invitation for a
2026–27 FAFSA[®] Form

Accept an Invitation



Access the MASSAid Platform



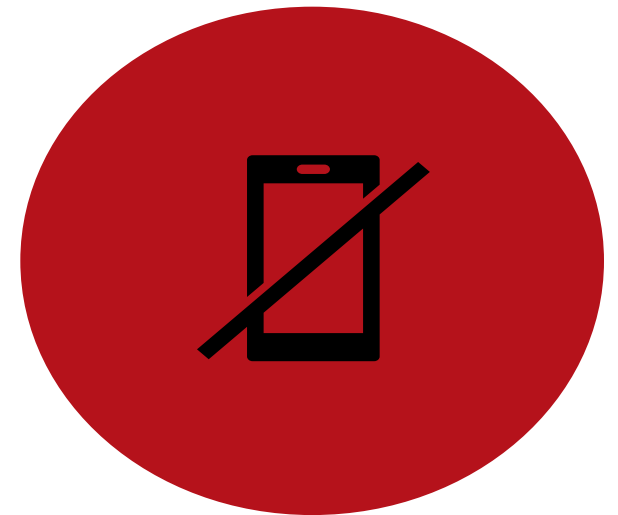
Browse with Microsoft Edge



Windows

Microsoft Edge is the best
browser for Windows

[Download
for Windows](#)



Create or login to MassAid



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Log In

User Name

[Forgot your User Name, click here](#)

If this is your first time accessing the Student Portal, [click here to create an account.](#)

Log In



[MASS OSFA](#) | [Site Policies](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)

Connect with @MASSDHE



Find the ECE Scholarship application



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

My Home

My MASSGrant

My Forms

Grant/Scholarship
Online Applications

Email OSFA

Account Management

College Cost and
Financial Aid Eligibility
Information

Logout

College Cost and Financial Aid Eligibility Information



[Click Here](#) to learn more about college costs and state financial aid programs you may qualify for to reduce those costs.

- View and compare the cost of the Massachusetts colleges you included on your FAFSA application.
- View your "expected family contribution" (EFC) - the amount the federal government estimates you and your family will need to pay towards the cost of college.
- View federal and state financial aid that you may be eligible for and update your eligibility by providing additional information.

Welcome

My MASSGrant

Find the ECE Scholarship application- next step

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Grant/Scholarship Online Applications

The following grant/scholarship aid programs can assist you in financing your higher education:

Grants

2024-2025 Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant

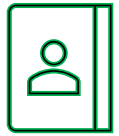
Scholarships

2024-2025 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship

In order to complete the online application process you must have access to a printer and ADOBE Acrobat Reader in order to view and print your application.



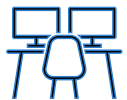
Application Sections



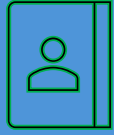
- Student Information
 - ✓ Name, contact information, demographics



- Application Information
 - ✓ Information regarding your academic program



- Employer Information
 - ✓ Work experience



Student Information

Address

FIELDS PRE-POPULATE WITH

City

STUDENT INFO (FAFSA)

State

Massachusetts ▾

Zip Code

 -

Phone Number

Email Address

MAKE SURE THIS IS UP TO DATE

Gender

 ▾

Ethnicity

 ▾

Data collected is for demographic purposes and will only be used consistent with state and federal law.



Application Information

Application Information

Must match

Institution <i>(required)</i>	BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY	Only institutions eligible to participate in the program are listed.	
Enrolled As 		Graduate Student	No
Major		Expected Degree Month	
Expected Degree Year		Grade Level	Second Year (Sophomore)
Prior Bachelors Degree	No	Degree Pursuing	Certificate/Diploma-At Least 2
Fall Anticipated Credits		Spring Anticipated	
Summer 1 Anticipated Credits		Summer 2 Anticipated Credits	

Prepopulates

Prepopulates

Prepopulates

Prepopulates



Application Information

I am applying as: (you must select one)

- Employed:** by selecting employed, I certify that I am currently employed at a licensed or authorized EEC program.

Or,

- Prospective Student:** by selecting prospective student, I certify that I am **unemployed or not employed as an early education and care provider at a facility or program, licensed/authorized by the Department of Early Education and Care, but plan to enroll in an approved course of study as defined in the eligibility requirements of the ECE Scholarship.**

And as such, I understand that:

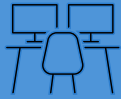
If selected as a recipient of the ECE scholarship, I must:

Demonstrate that **I am seeking employment with an early education and care provider in the commonwealth;**

And,

have agreed to enroll in a degree or certificate program in the early education and care field in the commonwealth; provided, however, that recipients of the scholarship program shall commit to providing early education and care in the commonwealth for a term of service to be determined by the board in consultation with the board of early education and care.

- I understand that I can only apply as a prospective student **once**, and that I must obtain eligible employment the following application cycle to meet eligibility guidelines for the ECE Scholarship Program.



Employer Information

Employer Information

CURRENT EMPLOYER

Current Employer Name

The EEC Program Number can be found in the LEAD portal under "Provider Number" OR on your program's EEC license as the FIRST number listed a P-XXXX

P- Program Number

EEC Program Number is attached to the program where you work.

Current Employer Address



Current Position/Title

Current Employer City

Start Date (mm/dd/ccyy)

Current Employer State

PQ Registry Number

 DEEC

EEC Single Sign On PQR must be "active."

Program and PQR Numbers

An individual Professional Qualifications Registry Number can be found in your [EEC Single Sign In](#) or on your PQR Certificate.

The **EEC Program Number** can be found in the LEAD portal under "Provider Number" OR on your program's EEC license as the FIRST number listed: P-12345.

WELCOME SARAH (21374)

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care Professional Qualifications Registry

Help • My EEC Apps • Log Out

PERSONAL INFO EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE SUMMARY MY REGISTRATION MY PROGRAMS

Sian, Sarah (21374)
Registration Status: Active Registration Date: 3/23/2026 Renewal Date: 3/23/2027

My Registration Print Registration Confirmation

MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Education and Care Amy Kershaw, Commissioner

Early Education and Care Professional Qualifications Registration Confirmation

Registrant Information: Registration Number (Status):
21374 (Active)

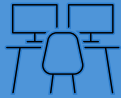
Registration Date: March 23, 2026 Renewal Date: March 23, 2027

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Governor Maura T. Healey
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE

First Professional License to Operate a Large Group and School Age Child Care Program

Program Number: P-12345 License Number:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15D of the General laws, and regulations established by the Department of Early Education and Care, a license is hereby granted to:



Employer Information

**Current
Employer Zip**

 -

**Program Phone
Number**

**Average Hours
Worked Per
Week**

**Average Hours
Program
Operates Per
Week**

**Supervisor Last
Name**

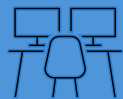
**Supervisor First
Name**

**Supervisor
Phone Number**

**Supervisor Email
Address**

Supervisor Title

Family Child Care
and Center-based
Program Owners
can list their own
information in the
supervisor fields.



Previous Employer Information

PREVIOUS EMPLOYER 1

Name

Position/Title

Address

Start Date
(mm/dd/ccyy)

City

End Date
(mm/dd/ccyy)

State

Supervisor Last
Name

Zip

 -

Supervisor First
Name

Program Phone
Number

Supervisor
Phone Number

Supervisor Email
Address

Terms and Conditions

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

- I understand that the ECE Scholarship **DOES NOT** include any part of a public school system. Subsequently positions/and or employment within a public school are **NOT** eligible. (ex. Paraprofessionals, teachers, guidance counselor, etc.) The Massachusetts public school system falls under the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**, not EEC.

Licensed or Authorized Employer:

All eligible programs must have a Program Number issued by the Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) and have an active account in LEAD. Such programs have been authorized to operate direct care to children in the following settings:

- Family child care
- Group and school-aged center based care
- Out-of-School Time
- Residential and Placement programs

Family Child Care Systems that have contracts with EEC to provide financially subsidized care to children are also eligible employers.

I understand that an eligible position is defined as:

Those that provide direct care to children, such as:

- Family Child Care (FCC) owners/educators
- FCC assistants
- Assistant teachers
- Teachers
- Lead teachers
- Directors
- Group leaders
- Site coordinators
- Residential and placement care providers

This also includes specific positions within Family Child Care Systems that have contract agreements with EEC, such as home visitors, mentors, coaches, and educational leaders.

(Early education and care includes formal programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age children during out-of-school time, and residential and placement programs.)

Service Commitment

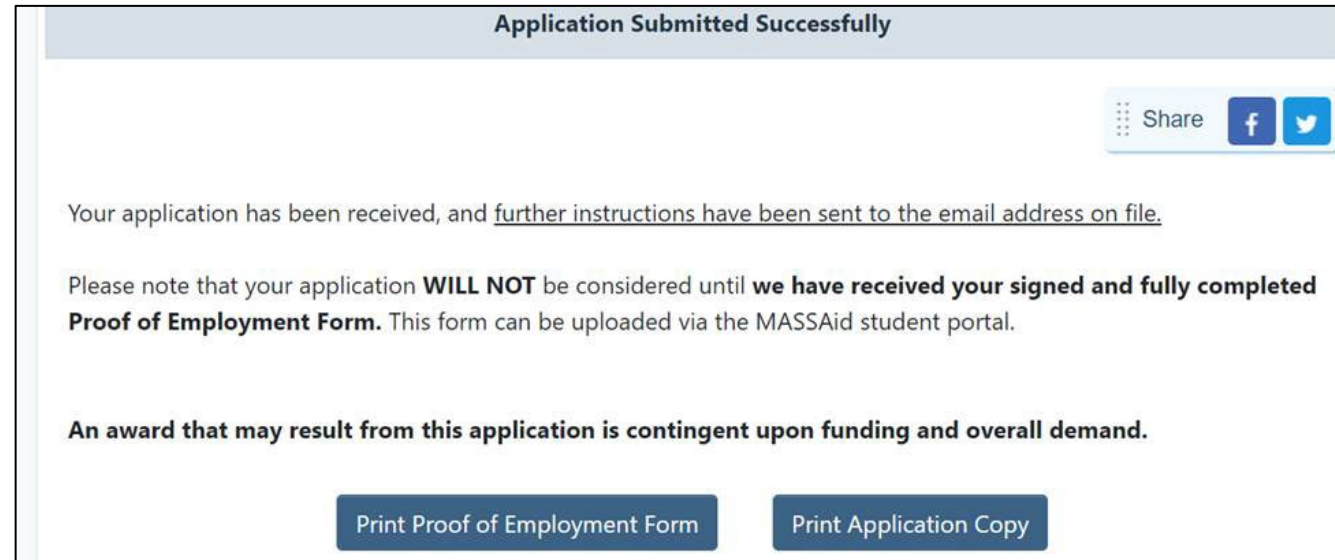
Agree to the Service Commitment by checking the box.
Be sure to save and submit your application.

Service Commitment Agreement

- I understand that although there are no procedures for repayment if a student fails to complete the above commitments, that as a recipient of the ECE Scholarship there is an expectation that students will continue to be employed in the Early Childhood Education field as an educator or provider in Massachusetts for six months per semester of scholarship receipt, not to exceed a two year maximum commitment upon graduation from an associate's degree program and a four year maximum commitment upon graduation from a bachelor's degree program.
- I understand that employment in a MA public school system does not fulfill the service obligation for the ECE Scholarship.
- I have read the terms and conditions and understand the above defined eligible employers and positions.

In the event that the fiscal year appropriation is not sufficient to permit a full award to each eligible student, priority consideration will be given to eligible applicants recommended by an individual qualified to speak to their commitment and dedication to the field of early education and care; or members of a socially or economically disadvantaged community as defined by the Department in consultation with the Department of Early Education and Care.

Print Proof of Employment (POE)



Print the PDF for supervisor signature

Upload Proof of Employment (POE)

BEFORE

Upload Proof of Employment

Please upload your completed Proof of Employment form. The Department of Early Education and Care reserves the right to verify the applicant's employment information. Submitting false or misleading information could result in the denial of this or future awards.

Please upload 2027 Proof of Employment No file chosen

Valid file types: PDF, JPG, GIF, TIF and PNG
Multiple pages must be saved as a single document before being uploaded

AFTER

Upload Proof of Employment

Please upload your completed Proof of Employment form. The Department of Early Education and Care reserves the right to verify the applicant's employment information. Submitting false or misleading information could result in the denial of this or future awards.

Please upload 2027 Proof of Employment No file chosen

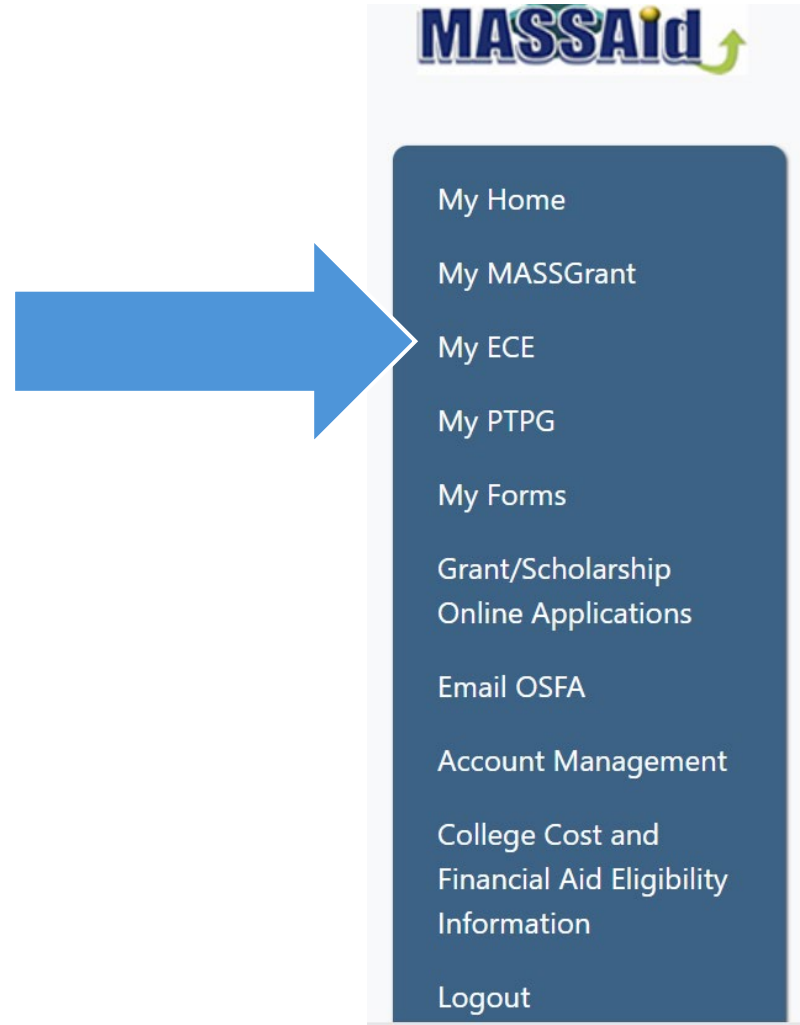
Valid file types: PDF, JPG, GIF, TIF and PNG
Multiple pages must be saved as a single document before being uploaded

Your Proof of Employment Form has been successfully uploaded.

Please allow at least 48-72 hours for documentation to be reviewed and your account to be updated by an OSFA administrator. If you have uploaded your documentation, you **DO NOT need to fax and/or mail to OSFA.**

To view your uploaded form, please click on the tab labeled "My Forms" on the left-hand side.

Navigating back to the Application



View Application Status

Before uploading POE

My Early Childhood Educators Scholarship

Cumulative Program Summary

Total Funds Received: \$0.00

2026-2027 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship award information displayed is subject to change, pending a final Fiscal Year 2027 Massachusetts State budget.

Academic Year 2026-2027

Application Status: Ineligible

Please click each of the ineligible reason(s) listed below for more information on how to correct them.

- No Proof of Employment on File

All awards are subject to certification by the institution.

[Click here to update 2026-2027 application information](#)

CURRENT INSTITUTION: CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FALL ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 10
SPRING ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 11
SUMMER 1 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 8
SUMMER 2 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 6

Re-Print Application

Re-Print Proof Of Employment

Upload Proof of Employment

After uploading POE

My Early Childhood Educators Scholarship

Cumulative Program Summary

Total Funds Received: \$0.00

2026-2027 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship award information displayed is subject to change, pending a final Fiscal Year 2027 Massachusetts State budget.

Academic Year 2026-2027

Application Status: Ineligible

Please click each of the ineligible reason(s) listed below for more information on how to correct them.

- Pending Review of Proof of Employment Form

All awards are subject to certification by the institution.

[Click here to update 2026-2027 application information](#)

CURRENT INSTITUTION: CAPE COD CO...
FALL ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 10
SPRING ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 11
SUMMER 1 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 8
SUMMER 2 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 6

Re-Print Application

Re-Print Proof Of Employment

Upload Proof of Employment

Update your application information

Update the Application

Change
your
school

1. Select your NEW
school

Update ECE Application Information

Academic Year 2026-2027

Current Institution

CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Transfer Term

Fall

You have selected the Fall term which will process a transfer for the following term(s): Fall, Spring, Summer/Summer1, Summer2. If you are not attending this institution in the subsequent term(s), please process another transfer once this term is complete.

Fall Anticipated Credits

10

Spring Anticipated Credits

11

Summer/Summer 1 Anticipated
Credits

8

Summer 2 Anticipated Credits

6

Change
your
credits

Update

Cancel

2. Select the term
you're starting at your
new school.

What happens next?

- Monitor your email inbox. All information and notifications will be sent via email.
Read emails closely.
- Allow time for DHE and EEC review (3-4 weeks).
- If you receive an email that you are “ineligible,” you will have 20 days to correct the reason for ineligibility. Instructions will be in the email.
- Award amount will remain as “pending” until your school “certifies” that you are enrolled and attending classes- usually at the end of add/drop period.

Resources

☐ Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)
[Scholarship Information](#)

☐ Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) [Scholarship Information](#)