

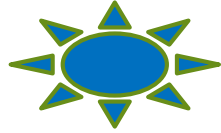
YOUR GUIDE TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP



Questions we will answer here

- ▶ **What is the Early Childhood Scholarship?**
- ▶ **How is it similar and different from the EPS subsidy program?**
- ▶ **How do I Apply for it?**
- ▶ **What are the Eligibility requirements?**
- ▶ **Where can I turn for help?**

What is the EEC Scholarship?



- ❖ **The EEC Scholarship is a joint program of the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA).**
- ❖ **It is designed to support working educators in completing degrees at either the associate or bachelor level at Massachusetts colleges.**
- ❖ **It provides financial aid for up to 3 courses for fall and/or spring semesters (typical awards are for 2 classes) and occasionally 1 course for the summer semester .**

Similarities between the EEC Scholarship and the EPS Subsidy programs

- ❖ **You must live and work in Massachusetts**
- ❖ **You must work in a licensed or license exempt* program**
- ❖ **You must provide proof of employment through a supervisor's signature.**
- ❖ **You must have worked for at least one year prior to receipt of grant/subsidy.**
- ❖ **You must not be in default of student loans (at attending college).**
- ❖ **Neither is based on income or financial need but on employment in the field.**
- ❖ **You must commit to continue employment in field for specified amount of time based on award guidelines.**

**Public Preschool programs are sometimes Licensed Exempt*

Differences between the Scholarship and the EPS Subsidy

EEC Scholarship

- ❖ Must be matriculated
- ❖ Must complete FAFSA
- ❖ Must complete Scholarship application through EEC
- ❖ Can not have a previous BA degree
- ❖ Provides enough funding for each course, plus a little extra for books and materials
- ❖ Scholarship goes directly to the college and is part of the students financial aid package

EPS Subsidy

- ❖ Can take individual courses without committing to degree
- ❖ No FAFSA required
- ❖ Must complete EPS application through PET
- ❖ Can have a degree already.
- ❖ After the initial application fee the course is free. Books and materials are not included.
- ❖ The Subsidy is paid directly to the college for the course as a whole or for individual students. Not part of financial aid.

WHAT TO DO RIGHT NOW!

1. Matriculate at the college of your choice by applying to that school in an ECE or related degree program. (Child Development, Family Studies, Child Care Administration or fields that directly refer to Early Childhood Development)
2. Complete your FAFSA! www.fafsa.ed.gov
3. Speak with your Advisor to discuss class selections

What to do Starting April 1st!

1. Check for the application:

<http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/earlychildhooded.asp2>

2. Complete the application-carefully and with all needed signatures and documentation.

3. Apply for the most classes you are considering taking each semester -including summer I!

(If there is not enough money for all classes EEC will let you know but you can't apply for more money once your application has been accepted)



4. Submit your application to EEC by June 1st!

Scholarships are awarded on a first come,
first served basis. The sooner you apply
the better chance you have!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP
CONTACT:

Kim Audette
Academic and Career Advancement
Coordinator
Preschool Enrichment Team
audettek@gcc.mass.edu
413 775-1270



Good Luck!

