



Introduction

More than ever before, federal, state and local policymakers and the public recognize the need for high-quality, affordable, and accessible child care that depends on an educated, well-compensated early childhood workforce. Likewise, the TEACH Early Childhood® National Center is the hub of a network of TEACH Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® Initiatives across the country. The Center licenses statewide early childhood non-profit organizations to administer TEACH and/or WAGE\$. Through our technical assistance and quality assurance program, we support our state partners and ensure all state projects are accountable, effective and high performing.

With a laser focus on the educators who are furthest from opportunity, the National Center has worked with national and state policymakers on career pathways, debt-free higher education, articulation agreements, and compensation strategies. The data shows that TEACH and WAGE\$ are moving the needle and are tested models that benefit educators. These efforts have resulted in programs with consistent, high-quality teachers and directors, benefitting children across states.

This series of policy briefs informs and provides recommendations for policymakers, programs, advocates, and other stakeholders in early childhood, higher education, and workforce development systems for a strong early childhood workforce. The briefs include information related to the following areas:

- Career Pathways: Supporting Early Childhood Educators
- Higher Education and the Early Childhood Workforce
- Retaining Educated Early Childhood Educators

We hope you find this series from the TEACH Early Childhood® National Center a useful tool to understand and act on behalf of the early care and education workforce.

