

# Career Path for High School Students

**Almost 3.7 million students graduate from high school every year. Of those not attending college, more than one-quarter (29%) are unemployed and their job prospects are far from ideal. Obtaining the Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ provides many of these students a path to employment and career development. In addition, the CDA® addresses the shortage of emergent professionals trained to work with young children.**

It is estimated that there are over 14 million young children in the United States who are in some form of early childhood education and care. The High School CTE CDA program can make a difference both to the country's young children and to high school students interested in starting on their career path. The Council for Professional Recognition seeks partnerships with school districts ready to further invest in a young person's future.

## **JUMPSTART YOUR STUDENTS' SUCCESSFUL PROFESSION**

For students interested in working with young children consider the High School Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. It creates a direct pathway to employment and higher education. Since 2011 the Council for Professional Recognition has worked with high schools across the United States providing CDA training programs as part of their curriculum in career and technical high schools (CTE). Enrolled students leave high school ready to either enter the workforce or attend college having earned credits toward an associate or bachelor degree.

Understanding possible funding options and gaining the support of school and district administrators is critical to the start and success of your High School CDA Program. Visit your State Department of Education (DOE) website to better understand support available to begin a program. Generally, Early Childhood Education falls under the Education and Training Career cluster, but state structures may vary. Some states also have grants that can fund ECE/CTE programs to help implement career pathways.

**“I think the CDA is a great opportunity for students to start their career path. Whether they continue in early childhood education or not, there are professional traits learned as they work to complete a portfolio and track their training and work hours.”**

*Mary Matthews, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Lone Peak High School - Highland UT*

## THE POWER OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CDA® CREDENTIAL

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ builds the skills and knowledge necessary to best nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of young children. CDA® coursework supports students building their knowledge in child growth and development to improve practice. The CDA also provides students with a critical understanding of how the CDA competency standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to the next.

The high school based CDA is designed to provide students with academic and hands-on training needed to prepare for a professional career in early childhood education settings. The approach delivers the experience and academic training needed to meet the Council's strict requirements for students to successfully submit a CDA application, pass the qualifying exam, and succeed through an on-site verification visit. The CDA standardized training requirements are an industry leading quality assurance measure to ensure consistency in performance.

**“One of the main things I’ve learned is how to interact with the children. There is a lot of emotional reinforcement and positive reinforcement we need to give the children and giving them other options to follow.”**

*Zoe Labarthe, Student, John A. Ferguson High School - Miami, FL*

## PROGRAM BENEFITS: STUDENTS AND FACULTY

### Students

- Leave high school job-ready with nationally recognized CDA Credential
- Provides a jump start to their higher education with core knowledge of child development
- Gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to work with young children
- Earn college credit while still in high school
- Receive faculty support throughout the CDA process

### Faculty

- Empower students with explicit, measurable, and transferrable learning competencies recognized in all 50 states and the United States military
- Serve as a CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ and further their training and expertise
- Prepare students for success in college and careers
- Receive recognition for their contributions

## PARTNER WITH THE COUNCIL

Together we can impact a young person's life. The Council seeks to partner with high schools, superintendents, principals, CTE administrators, school boards and associations who are invested in supporting high school students' career and employment opportunities. Formal partnerships with the Council are mutually beneficial. Partners receive account support, marketing and communications, technical assistance, and opportunities to collaborate with the Council on major strategic initiatives.

The *Child Development Associate® (CDA) Handbook for High School: A Guide to Advocacy and Implementation* is a resource to assist with making the CDA a part of your school's CTE curriculum. **Learn more by visiting [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) or email us at [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org).**