

CDA® State Fact Sheet

MASSACHUSETTS



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Massachusetts: **12,774***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Massachusetts:

Infant-Toddler **1,889*** | Preschool **4,232*** |
Family Child Care **6,587*** | Home Visitor **59***;

*Data since inception of the Council +/- .4% margin of error

Partnership

The **Massachusetts Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Early Education and Care that is designated as the State Advisory Council. Goals for the Collaboration Office include partnering with Massachusetts child care systems, emphasizing the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Initiative and working with Massachusetts' school systems to ensure continuity between Head Start and Kindergarten. A priority area for the Head Start Collaboration Office is to work with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition to assist in the development of and support for high quality career development opportunities for early childhood educators.

CDA® Training

- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Massachusetts** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Massachusetts CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **Early Educator Career Pathways Program at Massachusetts' Publicly Funded Community Colleges:** Stackable pathways are offered that include college credit coursework toward meeting the CDA Credential training education requirement.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care CDA Scholarship Program:** The Scholarship Program supports the cost of the application fees for Assessment, Second Setting, and Renewal CDA Credentials.
- **Early Education and Care Pathways Grant at Berkshire Community College:** The Grant provides the CDA Bundle of textbooks and materials for CDA portfolio development.

Meet: Karla Boudreau – Massachusetts

Karla was surprised 24 years ago when she started working at a child care center in Fitchburg. “It bothered me,” she recalls, “that some of the teachers working at the center had little experience in the field and lacked enthusiasm for their work.” What a contrast to the early childhood education students who came to the classroom from Massachusetts Regional Vocational High School (Monty Tech) for their practicum work.

When Karla saw how eager the young people were to work with kids, she decided to take her career to a higher level by embarking on an 18-year quest to teach the next generation of teachers. Her journey took her to two vocational schools before she wound up at Monty Tech, where she’s been for the past eight years. When she first arrived, the program was already providing students with the basics of ECE so they could earn a Massachusetts Department of Early Childhood Education and Care teacher certification. Still, Karla was thrilled three years ago when Monty Tech began offering the Child Development Associate[®] (CDA) credential[™]. “The CDA was the next step in improving our program,” she says. And it’s still helping Monty students take their skills to the highest level they can achieve.

What is the CDA[®]?

The Child Development Associate[®] (CDA) Credential[™] is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is a key stepping-stone on the path of career advancement in ECE.

The CDA credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

CDAs have knowledge of how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDAs know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

Earning the CDA credential has many advantages, including exposure to the larger community of early childhood educators. **Over 800,000 CDA credentials have been issued to date!**

Becoming a CDA is a big commitment, but one that creates confident practitioners with command of today’s best practices for teaching young children.

Meet the Council

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to 5 years old. The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, pre-k, infant and toddler, family child care, and home visitor programs. As a nonprofit organization, the Council sets policies and procedures for assessment and credentialing. For more information, visit www.cdacouncil.org.