

Busting Myths about *the* CDA®

MYTH BUSTER

Myth:

The CDA is just a basic certificate.

Fact:

The CDA is a nationally recognized, competency-based credential requiring verified skills and performance-based assessments.

Myth:

There are no CDA scholarships or funding available.

Fact:

CDA access is supported by many funding sources: state scholarships, T.E.A.C.H., stipends, employer sponsorships, military benefits, etc.

Myth:

Anyone can issue a CDA.

Fact:

Only the Council awards the CDA. No school or employer can issue it.

Myth:

The Council provides training.

Fact:

Training is provided by reputable training providers aligned to CDA competencies. Not the Council.

Myth:

The CDA doesn't lead to career advancement.

Fact:

The CDA is a nationally validated career credential that opens doors across the early childhood workforce—holders often earn higher pay, new roles, and college credit.

Myth:

The CDA is static and doesn't keep up with the evolving field.

Fact:

The CDA is routinely updated in alignment with current research, workforce systems, and higher education standards.

Myth:

The CDA is easy.

Fact:

The CDA is rigorous and performance-based, requiring 120 hours of training, 480 hours of experience, a portfolio, and a national exam.

