

# Early Educators: Thinking About Going Back to School



## Virginia Child Care Providers Scholarship Program (VCCPSP)

This scholarship program is for current/potential child care professionals to help improve their knowledge and skills that contribute to providing quality child care.

Learn more about VCCPSP at [vaccscholarship.com](http://vaccscholarship.com) or email [vaccscholarship@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:vaccscholarship@doe.virginia.gov).



**A TEACHER'S KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCIES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

There are opportunities for early childhood professionals to increase their skills as educators.

Check out these scholarship programs that support Virginia's most valuable workforce.



## Project Pathfinders Scholarship Program)

This scholarship program is open to early childhood professionals (lead teachers, assistant teachers, and administrators) seeking to complete a credential in early childhood education or child development through Virginia's community colleges.

Learn more about Project Pathfinders at [www.vecf.org](http://www.vecf.org) or email [pathfinders@vecf.org](mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org).

Scholarship Comparison	VDSS	Project Pathfinders	Notes
Applicants can be planning to seek employment providing child care for young children.	X		
Applicants are currently employed as a child care provider in VA or enrolled in their VA high school's dual enrollment program.	X	X	Employment can be private home, private business/school, public school, faith-based entity, high school dual enrollment program.
Preference is given to applicants providing child care to at-risk young children.	X	X	Not required to apply, but preferable.
Applicants plan to attend a VA Community College and take courses towards an Early Childhood Certificate.	X	X	Courses can be taken in a classroom or online, but must be provided by a VA Community College.
Applicants plan to attend a VA Community College and take courses towards an Early Childhood Associate Degree.	X	X	Courses can be taken in a classroom or online, but must be provided by a VA Community College.
Applicants plan to take community college coursework to meet Virginia teaching license recertification requirements and are not seeking credential or degree.	X	X	Applicants interested in receiving recertification points for community college coursework should mail their request to the Virginia Department of Education at the below address and include their name, license number or social security number, and current mailing address: Virginia Department of Education P.O. Box 2120 Richmond, VA 23218-2120
Applicants will be attending a 4-year school to work towards a Bachelor's Degree.	X	X	VDOE will cover up to 2 non-CHD courses if that limit AND the lifetime limit has not already been reached while attending a community college. If you have questions about using Pathfinders to cover your Bachelor's Degree, contact <a href="mailto:pathfinders@vecf.org">pathfinders@vecf.org</a> .
Will cover TUITION (in-state rate only?)	X	X	Up to 2 courses per semester (If student is eligible to receive out-of-state tuition, only up to the in-state rate will be provided).
Will cover mandatory FEES?	X	X	Up to 2 courses per semester.
Will cover TEXTBOOKS?		X	Pathfinders will cover ONLY required textbooks for approved courses. That can include courses covered by VDOE but 2 per semester is the limit.
Will cover non-CHD courses?	X	X	VDOE limit is 2 non-CHD courses only towards an EC credential. Pathfinders will pay non-CHD courses only if they are credit towards an EC credential (no limit).
Will cover ESL courses?		X	Project Pathfinders will cover tuition, books and fees for ESL courses needed to prepare for the ESL Placement Test.
Has a lifetime max for scholarship funding?	X		8 courses or \$3750 (whichever is met first).
Applicants must apply each semester for funding?	X	X	Application windows open for fall, spring and summer semester.
Grades impact the applicant's ability to retain funding?	X	X	Both require a grade of "C" or higher and not a "W" to be considered for subsequent scholarship funding. VDOE offers a "pay back" option.
Scholarship funds are paid directly to the college	X	X	
The college will only apply these funds if there is a balance in the student's account after all other aid is applied (including Pell Grant funds). The applying of these funds CANNOT result in a refund to the student.	X	X	Both scholarships are considered "Last Dollar" funding by the colleges. Pell Grant and all other funding sources are applied first. Only if a balance exists at that point will VDOE funds be applied. Only if a balance exists at that point will Pathfinders funds be applied.