

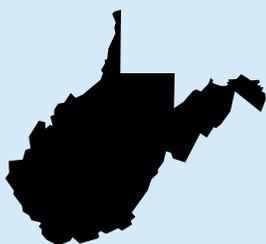


APPRENTICESHIP FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

COUNTIES WITH IN-PERSON CLASSES

- Berkeley/Morgan/Jefferson
- Cabell/Wayne
- Greenbrier/Summers
- Kanawha/Boone/Clay
- Hardy/Grant/Mineral
- Harrison/Taylor/Doddridge
- Jackson/Roane
- Logan/Mingo
- Mercer/Monroe/McDowell
- Monongalia/Marion
- Nicholas
- Ohio/Marshall/Weirton
- Putnam/Lincoln/Mason
- Raleigh/Fayette
- Upshur/Barbour/Randolph
- Wood/Wirt



Virtual Classes

Regions that do not have offer in-person classes have priority for virtual classes. If space is available after registration has closed other requests will be considered.



PROFESSIONALISM

As employees in the field of early childhood education, ACDS apprentices are expected to conduct themselves as professionals both at work and in class. Apprentices are introduced to professionalism and the characteristics of a professional in the first class of ACDS. The importance of professionalism is reiterated throughout all semesters of the program. As the NAEYC Code of Ethics outlines, early childhood educators have an ethical responsibility to children, families, colleagues, employers, community and society. Students are provided a copy of the NAEYC Code of Ethics and are encouraged to refer to this document whenever they encounter an ethical dilemma or need guidance on how to proceed with a difficult situation. ACDS wants apprentices to understand the important role they play not only in the lives of children, but also society. The influence apprentices have on the lives of children is substantial and should not be taken lightly. It is important that apprentices view themselves as professionals and conduct themselves accordingly. By doing this we encourage respect and recognition for not only ourselves but the whole early childhood field. The foremost principle in NAEYC's Code of Ethics is P-1.1, states **"Above all, we shall not harm children. We shall not participate in practices that are emotionally damaging, physically harmful, disrespectful, degrading, dangerous, exploitative, or intimidating to children."** As early childhood professionals, apprentices must always let this principle guide them in their work with children and families.





FALL 2024 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all ACDS Fall 2024 graduates! We hope you take time to celebrate your accomplishment! You have spent two years devoted to your employer, your education, and the families you work with. We hope the journey was enjoyable and that you leave the program feeling more knowledgeable of child development and better equipped to provide quality care to children and families.

After graduating you may still be involved in the program by becoming a mentor or local council member. Mentors serve as supervisors for students that do not have direct supervisors. Local councils meet twice a year to discuss current happenings in the ACDS program and to determine the class schedule in their region. For more information on becoming a mentor or local council member visit the ACDS website or contact us.

Revised 4th Semester Curriculum

The ACDS Curriculum Committee has been working to update and revise the curriculum. The 4th semester is complete and ready to be tested with students in Spring 2025. Three classes will be using the revised curriculum and feedback from instructors and students will guide any further revisions before utilizing the curriculum statewide. The committee will start reviewing the 3rd semester curriculum in early 2025.

GRADUATING CLASSES

BERKELEY/JEFFERSON
CABELL/WAYNE
KANAWHA
MERCER/MCDOWELL
WOOD/WIRT
STATEWIDE VIRTUAL

The Celebrating Connections Conference is March 19-21, 2025 at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center! Registration is now open! The early bird rates end January 31 and regular registration ends February 28!

REGISTRATION

The Spring 2025 semester will begin January 27, 2025. Registration is open and will close January 10. Any registrations completed after the deadline will result in a **late fee of \$5.00** and placement cannot be guaranteed.

WV STARS Pathway Advancement Scholarship

This scholarship is available for child care providers and directors that work in a licensed program. It will assist with paying tuition and related expenses toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood. For additional information including eligibility criteria and submission deadlines visit the WV STARS website, www.wvstars.org.



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Student Quote

I feel more confident than I did before ACDS class "there are so many things I didn't know that I wished I knew!"