



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 have offer in-person classes have priority for virtual classes. If space is available after registration has closed other requests will be considered.



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is April 26 - May 2, 2026. During this week, apprenticeship programs across the country will be celebrated and recognized for their contribution to creating a highly skilled workforce. ACDS will be one of many apprenticeships planning events to showcase their programs. Events will be both in person and virtual. ACDS will be sharing information about the program and student testimonials on our website and Facebook page. Many local councils across the state are also planning more regional events. Berkeley County is hosting an ACDS trivia night and Kanawha County is having a career fair in which ACDS will participate. As events are planned, they will be posted on the ACDS website and Facebook page. If you are close to an event, please attend and show your support for not only ACDS, but all registered apprenticeship programs nationwide!

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK EVENTS

- Berkeley- Trivia Night April 28, 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
- Kanawha - Career Fair 9:00am-2:00pm - Capitol



Updated Curriculum

ACDS has been updating the curriculum one semester at a time. Fourth and third semesters have been updated and are currently being used throughout the state. Second semester is currently being revised and will be used in the Fall 2026 semester. The goal is for first semester to be revised and ready to use in the Spring 2027 semester. When we revise a semester, we first look to make sure the content still reflects the latest research. Then we look for links and references that are out dated. We are also rewriting all homework assignments and quizzes. The purpose is to make sure our curriculum is providing students with accurate and current early childhood information.



Artificial Intelligence and Assignments

Artificial Intelligence or AI is becoming more common as a tool for finding and analyzing information. Although, there are very positive ways to use AI for gaining knowledge, ACDS does not permit students to use AI for purposes of completing homework assignments. The homework assignments are meant to help students apply and better understand the material taught each week. That knowledge is lost if the student is not applying the information for themselves. Also, in the agreement ACDS has with the Department of Labor, students are credited for the time it should take them to complete the homework assignments. That is also why all assignments are required to be submitted to pass a semester. We added a statement to the Conduct and Confidentiality form that states “Using artificial intelligence (AI) to complete assignments is considered unethical and is not acceptable. Any student suspected of using AI will be asked to resubmit the assignment and can be excused from the semester.” Instructors do not have to prove the use of AI, only suspect it. Instructors have reasonable expectations for students’ homework, they do not expect perfection. Please do your own original work, without the use of AI. Perfection is not the goal, gaining knowledge to help you in your early childhood career is the goal.

ACDS Staff Contact Information

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STUDENT QUOTE

“I gained new insight into child development and how intentional teaching practices support young children’s growth and learning.”

~ACDS Student
Fall 2025



REGISTRATION

Registration for the Fall 2026 semester will open **July 1, 2026**. Check the ACDS website (wvacds.org) for exact registration dates, including the registration deadline. Any registrations completed after the deadline will be charged a late fee of \$5.00. Late registrants are not guaranteed placement.

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.