



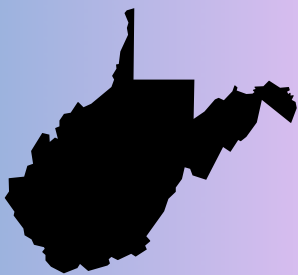
# APPRENTICESHIP FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

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



### **New Employer Training**

ACDS now has a training designed specifically for employers, directors, and supervisors of ACDS students. Anyone in one of these positions that has an employee attending ACDS in the Fall 2026 semester must complete the training by **August 17, 2026**. The training is registered with WV STARS for one hour of professional development. The training explains ACDS policies, procedures, and employer expectations. The purpose in asking employers, directors, and supervisors to complete the course is to make sure they understand their role and how to support employees attending ACDS. The training will be required every three years. This is to ensure employers are aware of any program updates and employer requirements. The training is **not** on the WV STARS training calendar. To be registered for the training, participants must complete a brief registration form that is located on the homepage of the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org). Once ACDS receives the application and approves it, the training will be placed on the registrants' WV STARS dashboard. Only employers, supervisors, and directors of current ACDS students will be approved to take this training. For additional information or assistance in getting registered, please contact ACDS.



## Spring 2026 Graduates

This spring, 72 apprentices finished 4<sup>th</sup> semester ACDS. We are thrilled that so many students completed the ACDS coursework. We do want to remind graduates that they must complete the required 3200-4000 on-the-job- training hours to complete the entire program. Once the mandatory hours have been collected, graduates must submit the DOL Application for Completion along with all required documents to ACDS. The documents will be reviewed and if accurate, a Department of Labor completion certificate will be requested. We wish each of the graduates the best in their future careers. Below is the list of counties with graduating classes.

- Cabell/Wayne
- Hardy/Grant
- Harrison/Taylor
- Kanawha/Clay
- Mercer/McDowell



- Ohio/Marshall
- Raleigh/Fayette
- Upshur/Randolph
- Virtual - Statewide



## Registration Deadline

Beginning with the Fall 2026 registration period, ACDS is strictly enforcing the registration deadline date. There has always been a set date for students to complete the registration process, but many have completed registration after that date. Late registrations have made preparing for the next semester challenging. ACDS uses registrations for final determinations on the class schedule, instructors, and the number of printed handouts for both students and instructors. To more accurately prepare for the semester, ACDS must enforce the registration deadline. The deadline is posted on the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org), during open registration and is also shared on Facebook. There are three steps to completing registration; orientation, payment, and semester participation application. Again, details for each of these steps is on the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org). For the Fall 2026 semester, registration must be completed by **July 31**. **Classes begin the week of August 17, 2026.**

## REGISTRATION

Registration for the Fall 2026 semester opened **June 1 and will close July 31**. Check the ACDS website ([wvacds.org](http://wvacds.org)) for exact registration dates, including the registration deadline.

## STUDENT QUOTE

"I always leave our classes with so many ideas from Cheryl (instructor) to make our programming even better."  
~ ACDS student  
Fall 2025

## 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](http://www.wvstars.org).

## ACDS Staff Contact Information

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