

EQUIVALENT OPTIONS FOR EDUCATION

Providers have options – known as equivalents – that include both experience and alternative credentials. Providers can choose between the education pathways or Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) approved alternatives.

Education	Experience	Alternative Credentials	
Education Certificates	Experience-Based Competency <i>(Not available for ECEAP or Early Achievers Points)</i>	College/Credit Bearing	Training <i>(Not available for ECEAP or Early Achievers Points)</i>
Associate degree in Early Childhood Education (90 credits)	Not available as an equivalent to Associate degree in Early Childhood Education	One of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Other related Associate degree (at least 30 credits in ECE with at least 2 credits in each of the 8 core competencies) 2. Bachelor’s degree in ECE or related (at least 30 credits in ECE with at least 2 credits in each of the 8 core competencies) 3. A valid Washington State Teaching Certificate with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education (Prenatal-Grade 3) or Early Childhood Special Education 4. 90 college credits with 45 aligned college credits* 	Not available
WA ECE State Certificate (47 credits)	Not available as an equivalent to the ECE State Certificate	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 year ECE certificate with a minimum of 45 aligned credits or related 2. Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) accredited teacher credential in infant/toddler 3. MACTE accredited teacher credential in ECE 4. Association Montessori Internationale diploma in assistants to infancy (B-3) 5. Association Montessori Internationale diploma in primary (age 3-6) 6. A current CDA (earned at college or in a community-based training) + 35 aligned college credits* 7. 45 aligned college credits* 	Not available
WA ECE Short Certificate (20 credits)	Experience-based competency demonstration	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20 aligned college credits* 2. Current CDA (earned at college or in a community-based training) + 8 aligned college credits* 	Community-Based Training (Funding Dependent)
WA ECE Initial Certificate (12 credits)	Experience-based competency demonstration	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Military Modules 2. Current CDA (earned at college or in a community-based training) 3. 12 aligned college credits* 	Community-Based Training (Funding Dependent)
HS Diploma or Equivalent; or enrolled	Not needed, work toward full education requirement	Options above or one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GED 2. Current CDA (earned at college or in a community-based training) 3. ECE Initial Certificate 	Community-Based Training (Funding Dependent)

*All college coursework must align with [WA ECE Competencies](#) and be verified in the workforce registry (MERIT).

