



NEWS from the NORTH CAROLINA

DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

WORKFORCE EDUCATION UNIT

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CHANGES TO THE DCDEE RATED LICENSE RULES EARLY EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION ADDED AS AN EQUIVALENCY OPTION

As of August 1, 2012, North Carolina Early Educator Certification (certification) was added to the rated license rules as an additional education equivalency option. Early Educator Certification is issued by the NC Institute for Child Development Professionals and is an acknowledgement of an individual's verified level of educational achievement based on a standardized scale. Certification is issued on two scales for early care and education and school age. Each scale has levels ranging from Para-professional to Level 13.

The certification equivalency option provides an opportunity for individuals to qualify as Lead Teacher, Teacher, Family Child Care Home Provider and/or Program Coordinator with their Early Educator Certificate (EEC). Initial qualification for any of these listed child care positions by an EEC will be based on three components:

1. The EEC is currently active (not expired) at the time of qualification.
2. The standardized scale of the EEC will determine which position(s) you are eligible to be qualified for (see below). The scale is based on the content area pertinent to the ages of children served:
 - ★ Early Care and Education Professional (ECE) Scale is designed for individuals working with children ages birth to five and is for Lead Teacher, Teacher and Family Child Care Home Provider positions
 - ★ School Age Professional (SA) Scale is designed for individuals working with children ages five to twelve and is for Program Coordinator positions
3. The EEC level, combined with any child care work experience requirements, will determine the education point level of that individual for the star rated license.

Please refer to the November 2012 revised star rated license charts available on the DCDEE website at www.ncchildcare.net for more information about the Early Educator Certification equivalency option.

Please contact the NC Institute for Child Development Professionals at www.ncicdp.org or 919-942-7442 for more information about obtaining Early Educator Certification.