



because the first 5 years matter

## 2023-2024 Scholars Program Overview

Preschool Promise is pleased to support your pursuit of a credential or degree in early childhood education. This program is intended to help those who wish to work with young children in a child care or preschool setting after graduation. We know that teachers and administrators and all staff working with young children play a super important role in making sure our children are ready for kindergarten. We also know that having the most current knowledge about how to teach young children is important. **We applaud you for wanting to get a credential or degree in Early Childhood Education!**

### Who can participate

Staff who work **at least 15 hours a week** at a Preschool Promise partner site who are getting a degree or credential to support their work in a preschool or child care setting. We have limited space in the program and will consider availability before each semester so please check back in a few months if we don't have space now.

### We are currently accepting applications for the following degrees and institutions:

1. Child Development Associate (CDA), any institution - we can suggest some options for you
2. Associate's in ECE (non-licensure pathway) at Sinclair College or University of Cincinnati online
3. Bachelor's in ECE (non-licensure) at University of Cincinnati
4. Bachelor's in ECE (licensure pathway) at Central State, University of Cincinnati, Wright State

If you have been familiar with the program in the past, you may notice a change in the list of degrees and institutions. Due to funding limitations, we are not accepting new students for Master's degrees at this time. Also, if you participated in the Scholars program prior to August 2023, we may continue to fund your degree at a different institution than is listed above.

### What Preschool Promise will do

We understand that working and going to school is difficult! We applaud you for continuing your education. We offer the Scholars program to help you be successful in finishing your credential. Here's what Preschool Promise will do to help you pursue your degree:

1. Pay up to \$10,000 a year for tuition\*
2. Pay for books and other necessary supplies
3. Provide advice and support to help you navigate study techniques and challenges that arise
4. Pay a completion stipend at the end of your degree, when you submit a copy of your new credential (\$500 for CDA, \$1,000 for Associate's, and \$1,500 for Bachelor's)
5. Consider offering a "Loss of Income" stipend or grant during the required practicum/student teaching, if you are unable to continue working at your place of employment - there is a separate agreement to be signed by the Scholar for this

*\*Note that we are not able to pay for late fees, health insurance costs, or room and board.*

### **What we ask of each participating Scholar**

In order to be part of the Scholars program, here's what we need you to do:

*At the start of each school year*

1. Sign our Scholars MOU in a timely manner - this is an agreement about what we will do and what you will do, and we can't pay your tuition until we have this from you
2. Enroll in the University and work with your advisor at the University to sign up for classes
3. Complete your FAFSA every year
4. Send us a screenshot of your FAFSA letter upon completion
5. Apply for scholarships at the University
6. Send us your invoice at least 14 days before it is due! Log into your portal and look for your semester bill as soon as you can so we have can pay it on time; Preschool Promise cannot pay late fees due to us not getting the invoice on time

*During the semester*

Continue to work at least 15 hours a week at a Preschool Promise partner site

1. Notify us if your job changes - if you get a new role or your change sites
2. Notify us if your email or phone number changes right away, so we can be in touch with you
3. Drop classes by the deadline so the cost of tuition will be refunded
4. Let us know when you have challenges and need help
5. Communicate with the Retention Specialist once a month:

- a. Schedule a live meeting (over the phone or on Zoom) with the Retention Specialist in the first month of the semester
  - b. Schedule or respond to the email/survey from the Retention Specialist every month
6. Send us the check if for some reason we overpay the institution for your account and they send you a refund
7. Study and stay in good standing with your institution
8. Celebrate your hard work and success as you complete classes and eventually finish your degree! When you finish your credential or degree, send us a photo of it (we like to brag on you) and we also will pay you a completion stipend!

**Want to learn more?**

We are here to help! If you have any questions, please send an email to [scholars@preschoolpromise.org](mailto:scholars@preschoolpromise.org) or call 937-414-2744. You can also visit our website at <https://www.preschoolpromise.org/scholars>.