



Dear Child Care Professional,

The Panhandle ECE STARS Wage Supplement Program, funded by Workforce Solutions Panhandle Area Workforce Board, is a salary supplement program administered by Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services. The wage supplement is intended as a means of identifying professionals who have furthered their education in Early Childhood Education and work with children and families. This is an effort towards helping our valuable Early Childhood teachers continue to work in a field where wages are not commensurate with other skilled positions.

Teachers are awarded based on education and experience in childcare. Award levels will be determined after applications are submitted. Supplements will be awarded based on available funding. Previous awards do not guarantee future payments.

Proof of education will be determined using the following documents:

- Official college/university transcript(s)
- Graduation documentation from a foreign college/university/secondary school, accompanied by translated documentation, including documented hours in birth to five. If hours in ECE are not designated, it will be assumed that there are none.
- For Tier III: current CDA certification certificate.

The following documents **will not** be sufficient, or accepted, in replacement of the above:

- Certificates of completion (except for a CDA certification in Tier III)
- Clock hours
- Training certificates, orientation document, or training plans
- Copies of diplomas
- Untranslated transcripts

The application is now online! [Application](#)

- Prior to completing the application, please set up a TECPDS account and upload your transcript and paycheck stub. This must be done BEFORE your application is submitted.

- The center director needs to complete and sign section 2. Please coordinate with your director to sign and complete while you are completing your application. The applicant cannot sign this section. Home providers see your Texas Rising Star mentor for section 2.

Below is a list of the criteria currently in place:

1. The applicant must be working directly with children for at least 32 hours per week,
2. Education:
  - **Tier I:** The applicant must have an associate degree or higher from an accredited school in Early Childhood Education or Education as it relates to Texas Rising Star.
  - **Tier II:** Have an Administrator Certification from Amarillo College or work as an Administrator in a program and meet the requirement of a Score of 3 in the Texas Rising Star DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING - FORMAL EDUCATION SCORING ([https://www.childcare.texas.gov/sites/default/files/texas-rising-star/documents/FARF\\_Centers\\_2024\\_Final\\_.pdf](https://www.childcare.texas.gov/sites/default/files/texas-rising-star/documents/FARF_Centers_2024_Final_.pdf) on p.4)
  - **Tier III:** Have a Provider Certification from Amarillo College or a current CDA
3. The applicant must work at a licensed child care center or licensed or registered child care home that is within the Panhandle Board area and have a current Child Care Services Agreement with Workforce Solutions Panhandle.
4. The applicant must earn \$19.00 or less per hour.
5. The applicant must have worked at their current center for the past 6 consecutive months prior to the application.
6. First priority will be given to applicants that are working in a child care program that serve a minimum of 10 low-income children and/or at least 20% of the enrollment serves low income families and working at a certified Texas Rising Star program.

**Please note:** Completing the paperwork does not mean you are awarded. Award recipients will be notified via e-mail in January, and additional paperwork will be required at that time. Incomplete packets will not be considered. Awards are contingent upon available funding.

The overall goal for funding is to support the most highly qualified individuals working with our most vulnerable children. Please e-mail [chixon@wspanhandle.com](mailto:chixon@wspanhandle.com) with any questions.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Hixon, Child Care Industry Support Specialist, Workforce Solutions Panhandle