



# GET A CDA IN HIGH SCHOOL

---

The High School Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential jump-starts successful careers and channels faculty expertise. If you are a student interested in working in early childhood education, earning a CDA can also get you a job in the field by the time you leave high school and help you earn college credit towards your AA or Bachelor's degree.

The CDA credential itself is based on the knowledge of the nation's leading scholars in early childhood education and learning. It's the only portable, national and multi-language credential of its kind. A CDA opens career opportunities for thousands of graduates every year.

**GET MORE INFORMATION:**

Web: [cdacouncil.org](http://cdacouncil.org)

Email: [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)

Phone: 202.265.9090

---

# HOW IT WORKS

CDA training and education programs follow the basic steps as detailed on the right. The specific start and end times of the credentialing process may vary according to your specific school.

## BENEFITS



- Leave high school job-ready with nationally-recognized CDA Credential
- Jump-start your higher education with core knowledge of child development
- Have the knowledge, skills and confidence to work with young children
- Assessment available in the language of your work
- Gain valuable skills and competencies early childhood employers want
- Earn college credit while still in high school
- Faculty support throughout the process

### FOR STUDENTS



- Empower students with explicit, measurable, and transferable learning competencies recognized in all 50 states and the United States military
- Serve as a Professional Development Specialist (PDS) and further your own training and expertise
- Prepare your students for success in college and careers
- Receive recognition for your contributions

### FOR FACULTY



#### STEP 01

Student enrolls in CDA classes in high school through a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program



#### STEP 02

**Complete experience blocks**  
120 hours of child development education + 480 hours of experience working directly with children  
Apply online



#### STEP 03

**Participate in a verification visit**

- Submit CDA portfolio for review
- Be observed working with young children
- Reflect on areas of strength or growth



#### STEP 04

**Take CDA Exam\***  
\*Offered in the language you will use teaching



**STEP 05**  
**Earn your CDA Credential**

#### START WORKING

**Find a job straight out of high school**  
CDA credentialed staff are in high demand

#### FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION

**Turn CDA into college credits toward an associate or bachelor degree\***

\*Based on individual policies at select colleges and universities



#### FACULTY SUPPORT

Mentors  
PD Specialists  
Trainers  
Teachers