

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

CDA is a national credential being implemented in North Carolina, based on a core set of competency standards that guide early childhood professionals toward becoming qualified educators of young children.

Statute: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2023/Bills/Senate/PDF/S722v3.pdf>

- No later than 3/31/24, North Carolina Division of Child Development & Early Education must develop and implement criteria that incorporates the CDA credential toward satisfying the requirements for the star rating system.
- There are 2 different credentials: birth – 3, and 3-5. It requires a HS Diploma/GED and 120 hours of formal early childhood education within 8 subject areas. It also requires training, a documentation portfolio, and within 3 years of submitting an application for the credential, the individual must have 480 hours of work experience in a center.

Administered by Council for Professional Recognition CDA National Credentialing Program:

<https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/>

CDA Credential – Community College Track brochure: [https://www.ncicdp.org/documents/cda-nccc_brochure_final%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.ncicdp.org/documents/cda-nccc_brochure_final%20(3).pdf)

Timeline and requirements:

https://www.smarthorizons.org/naccrra/common/cda_credentiaing_graph.pdf

On page 33 of this document, it says a CDA Credential can help meet the requirements to become a Child Care Administrator:

https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/C/Chapter_9_Rule_Changes_Effective_07-1-2023.pdf?ver=8v_6mYHBKAITAGicrIPyKw%3D%3D