QUESTION 1: I want to work in a childcare center but was told that I have to have an Early Childhood credential. How do I get that?

ANSWER: There are several ways to get an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Credential.

- The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) offers several credentials that will help you meet the requirements to work in a child care program. They are
  - ECCE Technical College Certificate (TCC),
  - ECCE Technical College Diploma (TCD),
  - ECCE Associate Degree.

All ECCE Credentials offered through the TCSG are accepted by Bright from the Start (BFTS), which is the licensing body for Georgia. The fastest credential to earn is a TCC. You can then go forward and earn higher credentials or stop at any point. All credentials are earned by successfully completing all classes and meeting all other college requirements. Simply taking the courses does not satisfy the requirements—the credential has to be awarded by the college.

While some colleges in the TCSG offer all of the credential options listed below, others do not. You should talk with an ECCE instructor/advisor at the technical college you want to attend to find out if the credentials offered there meet your
professional and financial needs. To find out who to contact at a specific college, please email bmoore@tcsg.edu or click on this link http://www.dtae.org/teched/standards/earlychildhood/earlychildhood.html (click on ECCE Contact Info on left side).

The ECCE credentials listed below are all accepted by Bright from the Start.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECCE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES OF CREDIT (TCC)</th>
<th>ECCE DIPLOMA</th>
<th>ECCE ASSOCIATE DEGREE (AAS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECCE Basics TCC</td>
<td>Early Childhood Care and Education Diploma</td>
<td>Early Childhood Care and Education Associate of Applied Science degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDA Preparation TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Development Specialist TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Exceptionalities TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Child Care Specialist TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant/Toddler Child Care Specialist TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age and Youth Care TCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Child Care Terminal TCC*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *The Introduction to Child Care Terminal TCC is a new, short 3-course program with very limited availability. It is only suited for those who want to meet the BFTS minimum standards and have NO plans to continue their education. The classes in this TCC will not apply to any other TCC, Diploma or Degree and are only offered at limited colleges. Contact bmoore@tcsg.edu for locations.
• With the exception of the above “Introduction to Child Care” TCC, all other TCCs listed include some courses that will count toward other TCCs, an ECCE diploma, or an ECCE associate degree.

• If you wish to be an assistant teacher in a Georgia Pre-K classroom, the technical college credentials shown above will satisfy the educational requirements.

• The ECCE degree will articulate toward a Bachelor degree at some colleges and universities in Georgia. To learn more, please click on the ECCE Brochure at http://www.dtae.org/teched/standards/earlychildhood/earlychildhood.html (click on ECCE Contact Info on left side).

• Again, regardless of which ECCE program you are considering, you will get more specific and detailed information by contacting an ECCE advisor/instructor at the technical college rather than the college’s general admission counselors. To find the ECCE contact at a specific college, please email bmoore@tcsg.edu or click on this link http://www.dtae.org/teched/standards/earlychildhood/earlychildhood.html

• The CDA is another way to satisfy the BFTS ECCE credential requirement. The CDA is only awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. to applicants who have
  - completed 120 clock hours of specific training, and
  - been properly observed and evaluated by their representative.

  For information on the CDA, contact the Council at http://www.cdacouncil.org/ or call 1-800-424-4310.

  To learn more about the difference between a TCC and a CDA, see Question 10.

**QUESTION 2:** If I want to be a lead teacher at a child care center in a regular classroom (not a Pre-K classroom), do technical colleges have the courses that I need to take?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Child Care Licensing Rules require lead teachers to have credentials such as a TCC, a diploma, a CDA, or an associate degree by December 1, 2012. See Question 1 for specific information about the credentials offered by Georgia Technical colleges.
QUESTION 3: Are any of these courses and programs offered online?

ANSWER: Technical colleges offer classes as web enhanced, hybrid (part face-to-face and part online) and totally online. Some of the courses and credentials are offered completely online. However, just because it is offered online at one college does NOT mean it is offered online at another. To find out about online offerings, go to http://www.gvtc.org and to see a list of online ECCE programs by colleges, go to http://app.gvtc.org/GVTC/General/Programs.aspx

QUESTION 4: Does the Program Administration Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) satisfy the 40-hour training requirement for program directors?

ANSWER: Yes, the Program Administration TCC satisfies the 40-hour training required by the BFTS Child Care Licensing Rules for program directors. The Program Administration TCC includes the following courses:

- ECCE 1103 Child Growth and Development
- ECCE 2320 Program Administration and Facility Management; and
- ECCE 2322 Personnel Management.

QUESTION 5: If I take ECCE 2320 - Program Administration and Facility Management, will it also satisfy the 40-hour training required by the Child Care Licensing Rules for program directors?

ANSWER: Yes, the class ECCE 2320 Program Administration and Facility Management will also satisfy the 40-hour training required by the Child Care Licensing Rules for program directors.

QUESTION 6: Can I get financial support for tuition and mandatory fees in addition to HOPE?

ANSWER: If you meet certain eligibility requirements, you can apply for financial support from two BFTS programs, SCHOLARSHIPS and INCENTIVES. To be eligible, you must

- already work in a licensed childcare center or registered family daycare home, and
- be enrolled in an ECCE program of study, and
- meet the programs’ requirements regarding your current wages, your position and hours of employment, length of your employment, and the work setting.

At a public two- or four-year institution, SCHOLARSHIPS will pay 80% of the fees that HOPE or PELL do not cover. At private institutions, SCHOLARSHIPS will pay up to $1800 per semester after HOPE and PELL have been applied. Payments are paid directly to the
institutions on your behalf. SCHOLARSHIPS does not cover courses offered through Continuing Education. You also receive a $300 cash stipend directly from SCHOLARSHIPS to assist you with books and other school expenses each semester you are enrolled. Finally, if you are working on the CDA (a national credential), a one-time CDA assessment fee scholarship is available through SCHOLARSHIPS.

INCENTIVES is an award that recognizes your accomplishment upon earning your credential. Awards range from $250 to $1,250 depending on the credential you earn and your eligibility.

SCHOLARSHIPS and INCENTIVES are administered by Care Solutions, Inc. For questions about either program, please call Care Solutions directly at 1-800-227-3410 or go to http://www.caresolutions.com/.

QUESTION 7: If I complete a required online orientation at one TCSG college, do I have to go through another online orientation at a different TCSG college?

ANSWER: It depends on the college. Each college makes the decision about what to require students to do or to take before enrolling in an online course. The online orientation is designed to maximize your success. The college may also require you to demonstrate specific skills, or to have certain equipment before taking an online course.

QUESTION 8: Does the Infant/Toddler Child Care Specialist TCC satisfy the Pre-K assistant teacher credential requirements?

ANSWER: Yes, the Infant and Toddler Child Care Specialist TCC includes ECCE 1101 Introduction to Early Childhood Care; ECCE 1103 Child Growth and Development; and ECCE 1105 Health, Safety and Nutrition. Therefore, this TCC is one way to satisfy the Georgia’s Pre-K assistant teacher credential requirement. For detailed information on the specific educational requirements for Georgia’s Pre-K, please visit the Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning website at www.decal.ga.gov

QUESTION 9: I am interested in talking to someone about entering an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Program. Whom do I contact or how do I find information about ECCE programs?

ANSWER: Each college that offers an Early Childhood Program has instructors and teachers who will be happy to answer your questions. It is best to talk directly to an ECCE instructor at the college you want to attend. You can find out which colleges offer which ECCE programs by going to this link https://kms.tcs.edu/POA/tcsg/TCSGProgramOfferings.aspx?appitemid=405
Click on the specific college to learn more about the program. You can also call the college to speak to an instructor or the program director for the Early Childhood Care and Education programs. You will get more detailed and specific information from the ECCE department rather than a general admissions counselor. You can also call or email Dr. Benita Moore at the TCSG System Office (bmoore@tcsg.edu or 404-679-1662).

**Question 10: What is the difference between a TCC and a CDA?**

**Answer:** The TCC is a certificate awarded by the Technical Colleges in Georgia. The CDA is a certificate awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. Both types of certificates meet the minimum credential requirement established by BFTS to work in a Georgia childcare center. The following is a summary of differences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCC</th>
<th>CDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typically 3-5 classes (9-15 credits)</td>
<td>120 hours of specific training classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available in various topics</td>
<td>Available in one topic: Basic information of child care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee is college tuition</td>
<td>Fee is class tuition + assessment fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(See question # 6 for more information)</td>
<td>(See question # 6 for more information)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily moves into other credentials (except the Introduction to Childcare Terminal TCC)</td>
<td>May move into other credentials with additional requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not expire</td>
<td>Must be renewed every 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily recognized in Georgia, may be recognized by other states</td>
<td>Nationally recognized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more information about the ECCE programs, go to [http://www.dtae.org/teched/standards/earlychildhood/earlychildhood.html](http://www.dtae.org/teched/standards/earlychildhood/earlychildhood.html). This link will provide you more details about the Early Childhood Care and Education programs at TCSG colleges. When you get to this link, click on ECCE Brochure to see a program brochure.

Revised and printed in September 2012. This information has been reviewed by Bright from the Start professional development staff and administration. TCSG information provided and reviewed Representatives Smith and Moore.