# State-Designated Career Technical Education (CTE) Early Education & Care (EEC) Programs

This resource provides the steps necessary to obtain designation and operation of a State-designated CTE Early Education and Care program. A Massachusetts State-designated CTE Eary Education and Care program is where high school students learn and practice the principles of high-quality early childhood programming.

When applying for designation of a CTE EEC program, the district must identify a preschool/childcare program that can be utilized by high school students as a location where they can apply their knowledge and earn practicum hours. These practicum hours allow a student to earn the EEC certification from the MA Department of Early Education and Care.

## Identifying a Preschool for Practicum

* Although the preschool/childcare program can operate at the high school or offsite, the approval and oversight for these programs are separate from the CTE EEC program approval and oversight process. The preschool must be approved by the appropriate authority and operated by licensed preschool teacher(s). The preschool/childcare facilities can be part of the CTE EEC learning space for practicum hours, but the CTE EEC program must have dedicated instructional space for the high school students with dedicated Chapter 74 EEC licensed instructors. **There are 3 broad categories** of preschool/childcare programs that are utilized by the CTE EEC programs for the purpose of practicum hours. All preschool/childcare programs identified for this purpose are considered extensions of the high school classroom. As an extension of the HS classroom, they must meet the same accessibility standards required of the HS instructional Spaces.
1. **Offsite preschool/child care programs: T**hese are licensed by the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).
2. **Public preschool/child care programs located in a school building, operated by a school district and receiving federal child care subsidy funding for children ages birth to five enrolled in the program:** These are licensed by the MA Early Education and Care (EEC) Office.
3. **Preschool/child care programs located in a school building, operated by a school district not receiving federal childcare subsidy funding:** These programs are approved by their Local Education Authority’s (LEA) School Committee. They may also be licensed by the MA Early Education and Care (EEC) Office but are not required to be.

## Educator Requirements

The CTE program must be taught by instructors with a MA (9-12) Technical EEC License (Ch 74 license). Additionally, the preschool/child care program must also have dedicated licensed preschool/childcare instructors. As part of the high school practicum hours, high school students cannot replace preschool/childcare instructors in the student to ratio requirements. A Chapter 74 licensed instructor should be present in the preschool/childcare space to provide direct feedback and instruction to the high school students.

## Program Hour Requirements

To accommodate the practicum hours required for students to be eligible for the EEC Certificate, CTE EEC programs must offer 150 hours.

## Additional Information

**Early Education and Care:** The information below is applicable to both offsite facilities where a high school EEC program is contracting with a childcare program and/or childcare vendor to provide work-based learning opportunities for students as well as onsite early education and care facilities.

* **MA EEC License**: Child Care Programs must submit a copy of their most recent EEC License.  If the License is expired and in renewal, documentation from an EEC Licensor must be submitted indicating the program is in the renewal process.

* **Background Record Check (BRC) Requirements:**

Supervised "Provisional" Hiring Replaces Unsupervised "Conditional" Hiring (Effective Dec. 11, 2018)

To meet new Federal requirements, **Licensed Group and School Age Child Care** **programs**will no longer be able to hire candidates to work in an unsupervised "conditional" status while their BRC is pending completion.

Prior to the new Federal requirements, candidates were eligible for unsupervised "conditional" employment after completing and receiving approval of a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check, and Department of Children and Families (DCF) check.

Under **EEC's new Federally-compliant Background Record Check regulations** (online at <https://www.mass.gov/eec-background-record-checks>, effective December 11, 2018, a candidate undergoing a BRC for a Licensed Group and School Age Child Care program may only be hired in a supervised "provisional" status.  A candidate is eligible for supervised "provisional" hiring only after completing a fingerprint scan and receiving approval of a SORI check.  Please note that "completing a fingerprint scan" means physically going to an **IdentoGO** site (<https://www.identogo.com/locations/massachusetts>) and completing an in-person fingerprint scan.  Supervised "provisional" status does not require EEC's review and approval of the fingerprinting results.  However, for a candidate to work in a supervised "provisional" status, they must be under direct visual supervision of another member of the child care program who has completed and received approval of a full EEC BRC, including a fingerprint-based check.

Due to the nature of their role, **Licensed Group and School Age Licensees** are not eligible for supervised "provisional" status and must receive proof of full suitability from EEC prior to license issuance or renewal.  "Full suitability" requires completing and receiving approval of all BRC checks, including a fingerprint-based check.

Transportation Providers, *Temporary Staff*, and Contracted Support Service Providers affiliated with a Group and School Age Child Care Program or Family Child Care Programmust receive proof of full suitability from EEC before they can begin working unsupervised with children.  As noted above, "full suitability" requires completing and receiving approval of all BRC checks, including a fingerprint-based check. This group is not eligible for supervised "provisional" status.

**Note that students in EEC programs are considered Temporary Staff.**

For more information, please visit EEC’s website at <https://www.mass.gov/eec-background-record-checks>, via phone at 617-988-7841, or email **EEC.BRC@mass.gov**.

* **Health and Safety Training**: Each student needs to complete the trainings listed the EEC website.

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-required-training-for-licensure-and-certification>

The additional Health and Safety trainings below will also be required.

Effective June 6, 2019, all students in an EEC childcare program must take the new EEC Essentials training course.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/eecs-strongstart-online-professional-development-system>

* Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases
* Prevention and Response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions
* Building and Physical Premises Safety
* Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma and Child Maltreatment
* Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Emergencies Resulting from Natural Disaster or Human-caused Event
* Handling and Storage of Hazardous Materials
* Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect