



# Rising STARS Tuition Assistance Program

## Highlights of Program features:

- 95% of tuition will be paid up front for college-level CDA courses, Director Credential courses, AA or BA in Early Childhood Education (all classes eligible, including general education courses), ECE credits taken in order to obtain Level II ("permanent") teacher certification or in order to move up on the Career Lattice (these credits may be at the AA, BA, or Master's level).
- Maximum total assistance per fiscal year is \$4,500
- Recipients must agree to remain employed at a Keystone STARS facility for at least two months for each credit paid for by the program.
- Recipients must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

## Eligibility requirements:

- Must be employed for at least a year at a Keystone STARS facility (Currently this includes child care centers, group homes, and family homes, or Head Start participating in STARS)
- Must have a base wage of less than \$20/hour
- Must be working in an early learning program at least 20 hours/week
- Must be a resident of PA
- Must be taking courses from an accredited PA institution of higher education or an accredited distance learning institution.

## 2013/2014 will provide a transition year from the Voucher program to the Tuition Assistance program:

- Individuals who have submitted and are approved for the Voucher program will receive reimbursement of 95% of the tuition cost without needing to submit any additional information. There will not be an adjustment made for those individuals who took summer courses and have already received their Voucher reimbursement money.
- **Individuals who are currently taking classes but have not yet applied for the Voucher program may apply for the Tuition Assistance Program**
- For future enrollment, individuals who submit complete applications and documentation at least 4 weeks prior to the start of their class will receive a check made out to the institution of higher learning, which they will then submit to the Bursar's office as 95% payment for their coursework.

The Governor's press release about the program can be found here:

<http://www.pa.gov/Pages/NewsDetails.aspx?agency=Governors%20Office&item=14587>