

Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice

The Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice is a system that provides early care and education professionals with a tool to track their professional development. Each user can identify her/his current place on the lattice, as well as the progressive path to enhanced training and education within the field of early care and education.

The Alabama Pathways Professional Development Lattice reflects eight levels of training and education to guide caregivers and teachers of children from birth through 12 years on the path that promotes high-quality care and education.

The levels include training, credentials, certificates, and degrees in child development, early childhood education, and elementary education, with a focus on knowledge and skills specific to early care and education. The training and education resources include agencies, organizations, and institutions that provide training and education specific to early childhood and school-age care.

LEVEL	TRAINING AND EDUCATION	RESOURCES
Level 1	Performance Standards training requirements and/or Alabama Early Learning Guidelines (AELG) credential	Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), Child Care Services Division DHR quality enhancement contractors
	Alabama Infant/Toddler credential	Local, statewide, regional, and national professional child care organizations
Level 2	Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or other national credential in child/care/early care and education	Council for Professional Recognition
		DHR regional quality enhancement contractors
Level 3	Short certificate and/or certificate in child development/early care and education	Alabama Community College System (ACCS) institutions
		Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Two-year institutions

LEVEL	TRAINING AND EDUCATION	RESOURCES
	Associate in Applied Science/Technology (AAS or AAT)	
Level 4	Degree in child development/early care and education and/or Associate in Arts/ Science (AA or AS) Degree in child development/early childhood education, including 18 child development/early childhood specific credits	Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Two-year institutions
Level 5	Bachelor's degree in child development, early childhood education, or elementary education, including 30 child development/early childhood specific credits	Athens State University Public and private four-year colleges and universities
Level 6	Master's degree (MS) in child development, early childhood education, or elementary education, including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and private four-year colleges and universities
Level 7	Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in child development, early childhood education, or elementary education, including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and private four-year colleges and universities
Level 8	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree or Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in child development, early childhood education, or elementary education, including 15 child development/early childhood specific credits	Public and private four-year colleges and universities

