

# Get a CDA<sup>®</sup> in High School

Earning a Child Development Associate<sup>®</sup> (CDA) credential in high school jump-starts successful careers and channels faculty expertise. If you are a student interested in working in early childhood education, earning a CDA<sup>®</sup> can initiate a career in the field by the time you leave high school and help you earn college credit towards your AA or Bachelor's degree.

The CDA credential itself is based on the knowledge of the nation's leading scholars in early childhood education and learning. It's the only portable, national and multi-language credential of its kind. A CDA opens career opportunities for thousands of graduates every year.

**Interested in implementing a CDA program at your school?** *The Child Development Associate<sup>®</sup> (CDA) Handbook for High School: A Guide to Advocacy and Implementation* is a resource to assist with making the CDA a part of your school's CTE curriculum. Visit [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) to learn more.

## **GET MORE INFORMATION:**

Web: [cdacouncil.org](http://cdacouncil.org)

Email: [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)



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RECOGNITION



# How it Works

CDA® training and education programs follow the basic steps as detailed on the right. The specific start and end times of the credentialing process may vary according to your specific school.

## Benefits for Students

- Leave high school job-ready with nationally-recognized CDA credential
- Jump-start your higher education with core knowledge of child development
- Have the knowledge, skills and confidence to work with young children
- Assessment available in the language of your work
- Gain valuable skills and competencies early childhood employers want
- Earn college credit while still in high school
- Faculty support throughout the process

## Benefits for Faculty

- Empower students with explicit, measurable, and transferable learning competencies recognized in all 50 states and the United States military
- Serve as a CDA Professional Development (PD) Specialist™ and further your own training and expertise
- Prepare your students for success in college and careers
- Receive recognition for your contributions



### STEP 01

Student enrolls in CDA® classes in high school through a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program

### STEP 02

#### Complete experience blocks

120 hours of child development/early childhood education + 480 hours of experience working directly with children



### STEP 03

#### Participate in a CDA Verification Visit™

- Presents CDA® Professional Portfolio for review
- Be observed working with young children
- Reflect on areas of strength or growth

### STEP 04

#### Take CDA® Exam

To take place at a local Pearson Vue testing center



### STEP 05

#### Earn your CDA® Credential

### START WORKING

#### Find a job straight out of high school

CDA® credentialed staff are in high demand

### FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION

#### Turn CDA® into college credits toward an associate or bachelor degree\*

\* Based on individual policies at select colleges and universities

## FACULTY SUPPORT

- Mentors
- CDA PD Specialists™
- Trainers
- Teachers