

Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential

NAEYC PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recognizes Aim4Excellence as an alternative pathway for meeting part of the [director qualifications](#) for NAEYC program accreditation.

LINKS TO STATE AND PROFESSIONAL INITIATIVES

The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership has partnered with professional development systems that link with quality rating and improvements systems across the country, institutions of higher education, and scholarship agencies that have identified ways that the Aim4Excellence online modules fit with current options for early childhood professionals. Below is a working list and is updated as additional linkages are established.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/QUALITY RATING SYSTEMS

Alabama

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential has been chosen as one professional development program to support the growth of early childhood program directors through a state supported initiative through the [Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education](#).

Colorado

Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System Early Childhood Professional Credential recognizes the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential as a [Qualifying Credential, Certificate, and Endorsement](#). Those who have earned the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential will receive points toward the Ongoing Professional Development component of the Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential.

Delaware

Aim4Excellence is currently recognized as an equivalent for the [Administrators Credential](#) and has been articulated through Delaware Technical Community College.

Florida

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential certificate may be submitted with the [Florida Director Credential application](#) to substitute the required *Overview of Childcare Management* coursework. Applicants should mark the *Director Credential from another state* box on their Florida Director Credential application.

Aim4Excellence participants who opt to take the modules for credit through National Louis University may submit their transcripts to fulfill the *Florida Director Credential - Advanced Level Requirements* for at least two, three-semester hour courses in one of the following curriculum areas:

Curriculum area required by the Florida Director Credential – Advanced Level	Aim4Excellence Course through National Louis University meeting requirement
Child Care and Education Organizational Leadership	ECE311: Administration I – Leadership Strategies and Staff Development (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3)
Child Care and Education Financial and Legal Issues	ECE312: Administration II – Managing Center Operations and Finances (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6)
Child Care and Education Programming	ECE313: Administration III – Implementing and Evaluating the Program (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9)

Georgia

The Georgia Professional Development System for Early Childhood Educators recognizes the Aim4Excellence modules to meet training requirements and support the [Georgia Quality Rated](#)SM system.

Illinois

Illinois Aim4Excellence participants will receive points toward the Education and *Training in Early Care & Education Administration* component of the [Illinois Director Credential](#). Points will be notated on the participant's Certificate of Completion for each module.

Indiana

Family child care homes enrolled in [Indiana's Paths to Quality](#)TM rating system may complete the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential as an equivalency to meet credential requirements.

Iowa

Iowa acknowledges the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential as an accepted qualification for receiving points toward [Iowa's Quality Rating System](#) (QRS). Aim4Excellence has been approved as an exception to 441 Iowa Administrative Code 118.3(2) a.

Kansas

As part of the requirements for the [Kansas Early Childhood Director's Credential](#), candidates must complete college coursework in leadership and management. One option to do so is to complete an approved nine-credit hour course of study in early childhood program leadership and management from an accredited college or university. The Aim4Excellence Credential, if taken for college credit through National Louis University, is approved to meet the requirement.

Maryland

To achieve higher levels within the [Maryland EXCELS](#) program, the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential supports professional development requirements which has many benefits to providers who participate. In addition, those director's wishing to participate in the [Maryland Child Care Credential Program](#) Administrator Achievement Bonuses can be supported to achieve levels 4 or 5.

Michigan

To support program directors with meeting the child care administration requirement through child care licensing, the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential training modules offer college credit and are recognized by the [MiRegistry](#) to help meet this requirement.

North Carolina

Aim4Excellence is an [approved distance learning training](#) opportunity for director's who are seeking on-going professional development to meet requirements as defined in the state's administrative code to meet licensing requirements to be a center director.

North Dakota

Aim4Excellence is an approved e-Learning option and supports [Growing Futures](#) approved training for licensing and advancement on the *Career Pathways*. Completion of the Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential is a qualification for placement at [Career Pathways](#) Category F.

Ohio

As part of the [Ohio Administrator Credential](#), Aim4Excellence is recognized as a *Level II-Option 2* within the quality rating system and the Ohio Professional Registry. The Registry is Ohio's online professional development tool for early childhood and afterschool professionals.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Professional Development Registry has approved Aim4Excellence to meet the administration/management requirement for the [Bronze Oklahoma Director's Credential](#) (ODC). In addition, the modules are approved as formal training for director's who are seeking quality information to strengthen their professional development growth.

Pennsylvania

Aim4Excellence is recognized as meeting the Pennsylvania Keystone STARS requirements for nine-hour director credential coursework. Participants must present proof that they have completed all nine Aim4Excellence modules for college credit when applying for the [Pennsylvania Director Credential](#) certificate.

South Carolina

[SC Endeavors Registry](#) recognizes the Aim4Excellence modules for training to meet director professional development requirements. This includes modules taken for college credit or non-credit.

Texas

Aim4Excellence has been approved as an organization meeting the criteria for the [Child Day Care Director Credential](#) as recognized by Texas Health and Human Services. Individuals in Texas who have completed the Aim4Excellence credential and meet additional requirements as defined in the state's administrative code may meet the licensing requirements to be a center director.

Utah

To support the [Utah CCQS Management and Administration section](#), the Aim4Excellence Director Credential is included as one way to earn points for the administrator who is responsible for business operations. In addition, all courses are included on the Utah Career Ladder Online Courses Approval List.

Wisconsin

The [Wisconsin Registry](#) recognizes the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential certificate as meeting the training requirements for continuing education as defined by the state's administrative code for child care licensing.

Aim4Excellence participants who opt to take the modules for credit through a regionally accredited institution of higher education should submit with a Registry membership application their official transcripts for review of related course work. Accumulation of related courses for credit can potentially raise an individual's Registry Career Level.

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential is not equivalent to the Registry Administrator Credential, also known as the Wisconsin Child Care Administrator Credential, and does not fulfill the training requirements for a center director as defined by the state's administrative code for child care licensing.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

National Louis University

Participants may opt to take the modules for undergraduate level-credit through [National Louis University](#). The approved courses (5 quarter hours per course) are:

- ECE311: Administration I – Leadership Strategies and Staff Development (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3),
- ECE312: Administration II – Managing Center Operations and Finances (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and
- ECE313: Administration III – Implementing and Evaluating the Program (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9). Students pay an additional \$330 per course and register by selecting the college credit option when registering online.

Rasmussen University

For new students starting October 2019 and beyond, students enrolled in the [Early Childhood Education Leadership](#) Bachelor Completer degree who hold a current Aim4Excellence Director Credential may receive waivers from: Organizational Management in ECE, Supporting Professional Practices in ECE, and Ethics and Leadership in ECE equal to 12 quarter credits. In order to request a School of Education Waiver, the participant must present a current and valid certificate or transcript from the credentialing agency. The participant's credential will then be reviewed, and if the criteria are met, Rasmussen College will waive the course requirements and the grades will be posted on the student transcript as a Course Waiver (CW).

Rasmussen University will also provide a Grant in the amount equal to 10% of tuition charges to each individual that has earned and holds a current Aim4Excellence Director Credential and who is admitted to and enrolled at Rasmussen College in a degree, diploma, or certificate program after October 2019 and beyond. Students admitted and enrolled prior to October 2019, may begin receiving the Grant at the start of the student's next academic term/session. Students must provide documentation of the earned Aim4Excellence Director Credential to receive the grant.

University of Houston—Clear Lake

Beginning in 2020, enrolled candidates at UHCL can opt to take the modules for either undergraduate or graduate level credit through the [UHCL Early Childhood Education Program](#). As part of the ECED course content, candidates will complete the Aim4Excellence modules. The approved undergraduate courses are:

- ECED 4325: Early Childhood Development & Management I—Leadership Strategies and Staff Development (Covers modules 1, 2, 3),
- ECED 4327: Early Childhood Program Development & Management II—Managing Center Operations and Finance (Covers modules 4, 5, 6),
- ECED 4329: Early Childhood Program Development & Management III- Implementing and Evaluating the Program (Covers modules 7, 8, 9).

The approved graduate courses are:

- ECED 5336: Administration and Management of Programs for Young Children I (Covers modules 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5) and
- ECED 5337: Administration and Management of Programs for Young Children II (Covers modules 6, 7, 8, & 9).

Candidates will meet the education requirements to become a licensed director in the state of Texas and can apply for the Texas Child-Care Centers Director’s Certificate and will meet the 4-star Director Qualification for the Texas Rising Star quality rating and improvement system for Texas early childhood programs. Interested participants should contact [Amber Brown](#) to get started.

University of North Dakota

Beginning in the fall of 2011 participants may opt to take the modules for graduate level credit through the University of North Dakota. The approved courses (4 semester hours per course) are:

- T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education I (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3),
- T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education II (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and
- T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education III (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9).

In addition to completing the modules, students are required to engage in an online discussion. Interested participants should contact [Jo-Anne Yearwood](#) to get started.

University of Southern Indiana

Participants may opt to take the modules for undergraduate level credit through the University of Southern Indiana (USI). The approved courses (3 semester hours per course) are:

- EDUC 340: Special Topics Aim4Excellence (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3),
- EDUC 340: Special Topics Aim4Excellence (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and
- EDUC 490: Special Topics Aim4Excellence (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9). Courses are offered at USI’s standard tuition rate.

Eligible Indiana participants may apply for scholarships through T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA to assist with the costs. Interested participants should contact [Jean Moore](#).

SCHOLARSHIP AGENCIES

Bright Horizons Family Solutions®

Bright Horizons directors may use their tuition reimbursement benefit toward the cost of the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential. Both the noncredit and for-credit options are eligible for reimbursement. For additional information contact your *ED Assist* Benefit Coordinator.

Illinois Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program

Practitioners working in Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensed centers and homes may apply for a *Gateways Scholarship* to cover the cost of the Aim4Excellence modules when taken for college credit [Gateways to Opportunity® Illinois Professional Development System](#).

Illinois Professional Development Funds

[Illinois Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies](#) have professional development funds available (based on funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services CCR&R) to help defray the expense of certain credential and accreditation fees. CCR&Rs may also have funds available for college tuition, to attend a professional conference, and/or for in-service training/consultation.

KinderCare®

KinderCare employees may use their tuition reimbursement benefit toward the cost of the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential. For additional information and eligibility contact your *KCE Benefits Team*.

Maryland Child Care Credential Program

Maryland recognizes the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential as part of the career ladder requirements to support levels 4 and 5 of the Administrator Credential levels which supports the Administrator Achievement Bonuses through the [Maryland Child Care Credential Program](#).

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Indiana

Eligible Indiana residents who take the Aim4Excellence modules for credit through the University of Southern Indiana may apply for a [T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA](#) scholarship to assist with the tuition costs for students completing the coursework. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will cover up to 80 percent of tuition costs, as well as fees for the module content.

This is a working document. Tell us about additional links or scholarship opportunities by contacting:

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