



COLORADO

**Department of
Higher Education**

Free ECE 101 and 103 Coursework – FAQs for Administrators

In partnership with the Office of Early Childhood within the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Higher Education is collaborating with the Colorado Community College System and public institutions of higher education to pay tuition and fees for ECE 101 and 103 for students who need these courses to meet minimum child care licensing qualification requirements for [early childhood teaching](#).



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the amount of the stipend?

The stipend covers full in-state tuition and associated fees for both in person and online courses. Additional costs for textbooks and/or other coursework materials are not covered.

What students are eligible?

Students classified as in-state for tuition classification purposes are eligible. This includes ASSET students. Students do not need to be enrolled full time or in a degree seeking program (see below). The Office of Early Childhood is also developing an appeal process for students classified as out-of-state who are working in the field of early childhood education while attending school in Colorado.

Do students need to be enrolled in a degree program?

Students do not need to be enrolled in a degree program to receive these funds. The only requirement for the funds is that the student needs these courses to meet the minimum child care licensing requirements for early childhood teaching. So that these funds can reach the greatest number of students who aren't yet early childhood teacher qualified, individuals who earn credit for ECE 101 or ECE 103 through a prior learning assessment do not qualify.

Do students need to have a FAFSA/CASFA on file in order to receive these funds?

A completed FAFSA is not required, however, all students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA or CASFA so that they may access additional financial supports.

Do students need to complete an attestation of COVID impact?

No. The federal stimulus funds that are supporting this work do require a connection to the impact of COVID, but that connection has been made through the impact of COVID on the ECE workforce as a whole and not at the individual educator level, so attestations from individual students are not required.

How do institutions submit a bill to the Department?

After the census date, institutions should submit a roster with the name of each student, the course(s) they are taking, and the tuition amount to be paid to ECE_accounting@dhe.state.co.us. A template will be distributed prior to the Spring 2022 term.

How can institutions reimburse students for the Fall 2021 term?

Institutions may choose the method of reimbursement that works best for them. A direct refund check, a credit towards a prior term, or a credit applied to an existing balance are all allowable reimbursement mechanisms.

How should institutions fund students in the Spring 2022 term & beyond?

Institutions should place a hold or conditional credit on each eligible student's account at the beginning of the term, then bill the Department following the census date for all students still enrolled.

If a student is enrolled at census but later drops the course, do they need to repay the funding received?

No. Funding does not need to be repaid for students who drop following the census date. Similarly, students do not need to receive a certain grade/pass the course in order to receive funding.

Are repeat attempts covered?

Yes, repeated courses are covered if the student previously attempted the course but failed. However, if a student already has credit in either ECE 101/103 or another set of courses that allow them to meet minimum child care licensing requirements, they are not eligible to receive this ECE 101/103 funding.

Are concurrent/dual enrollment students eligible to receive funding?

Yes. However, if a student is already receiving funding towards their tuition through their school district/another preexisting agreement, that funding should be applied first & the amount billed reduced by the equivalent amount.

Can students receive these funds if another entity is paying their tuition, or if they qualify for a tuition waiver?

The intent of these funds is to support as many new aspiring early care educators as possible. The funds should be applied in the manner that most benefits the students. They should not supplant other sources of tuition assistance for which students already qualify (for example, the Fort Lewis Native American Tuition Waiver, military-spouse tuition waivers, or concurrent enrollment funds through a school district should all be applied prior to these grant funds). However, other institutional aid may be applied after this grant funding so that it may go towards costs not covered by the grant.

How long are funds available?

Funding is available through the Spring 2023 semester.

My institution does not offer ECE 101/103. Which courses are eligible?

Eligible courses by institution are listed below. CCCS institutions that do not offer ECE 101/103 should contact Sondra Ranum, Sondra.Ranum@dhe.state.co.us.

IHE	ECE 101	ECE 103
UNC	EDEC 101	EDEC 103
UCCS	IECE 1000	IECE2500
CSU	EDUC 275	HDFS 375
CU Denver	ECED 2000	ECED 4202
Fort Lewis	ED 204	ED 203
Colorado Mesa	ECE 101	ECE 103
CSU Pueblo	ECE 101	ECE 103
Metro State University	ECE 2100	ECE 2970

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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