

TABLE 4.4 ALBERTA PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

	Teachers	Early Childhood Educators
Professional Recognition	The Office of the Registrar is responsible for the certification of teachers as legislated in the Certification of Teachers Regulation. ^a	The Alberta Child Care Staff Certification Office certifies staff working in licensed child care, preschool, out-of-school care, and approved family day home and group family child care programs. ^c
Professional Development	Teachers are required to engage in career-long professional learning. ^b	<p>Although professional development (PD) is not required, certified ECEs are encouraged to build skills and knowledge through PD funding and release-time funding (RTF). RTF allows certified ECEs to be paid while studying, completing post-secondary coursework, and attending workshops and conferences that have been approved for PD funding.^d</p> <p>PD funding rates include up to \$500 per year for workshops and conferences and up to \$1,500 per year for post-secondary coursework and textbooks, for a maximum of \$2,000 per year.</p> <p>Release-time rates paid to ECEs are \$800 per three-credit course (up to two three-credit courses per fiscal year) for post-secondary coursework and \$17.50 per hour (up to 45 hours per year) for workshops and conferences.</p> <p>Release-time rates are paid to employers and are \$60 per course for post-secondary coursework and \$1.33 per hour for workshops and conferences to offset wage-related expenses.^e</p>

^a ECS teachers are not required to have ECE qualifications. Government of Alberta. *Education Act, Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation, Alberta Regulation 84/2019*. Retrieved from: <https://www.alberta.ca/teacher-certification>

^b Government of Alberta. Alberta Education. *Teacher Quality Standard*. Retrieved from: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/14d92858-fec0-449b-a9ad-52c05000b4de/resource/09cd735a-3a02-4f1f-8e23-51a11e6dfb06/download/educ-teaching-quality-standard-2023.pdf>

^c Government of Alberta. *Certification Guide for Early Childhood Educators*. Retrieved from: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ed0e3162-0431-441d-a16c-61090c65adb0/resource/64f479d3-50f2-4886-a5bc-13d6ab7c0156/download/cs-certification-guide-for-early-childhood-educators-2022-10.pdf>

^d Licensed daycare, out-of-school care and preschool programs, and licensed family day home agencies can apply for grant funding to support the professional development of educators. Government of Alberta. *Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program*. Retrieved from: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-child-care-grant-funding-program#jumplinks-0>

^e Release-time funding is available to all early childhood educators who are eligible for the professional development funding. This funding allows educators to be paid while studying, completing post-secondary coursework, and/or attending workshops that have been approved for professional development funding. Educators are eligible for release-time funding regardless of when training occurs, including outside of regular working hours.

