

Do You Know About Gateways to Opportunity Credentials in Illinois?

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Gateways to Opportunity Credentials validate a person's specialized knowledge, skill, and experience in various aspects of working with children and their families. Awarding of credentials is based upon a comprehensive review of each applicant's education (college work and rigorous training) as well as professional contributions and work history.



Currently there are 4 Credentials available in Illinois:

1. **Illinois Director Credential (IDC):** The Illinois Director Credential validates the education, knowledge and experience of early care and education administrators. The IDC has been recognized as a national standard of management and leadership capabilities.

2. **ECE Credential:** The ECE Credential validates practitioner knowledge, skills and experiences in early care and education. This credential forms the basis for specialization credentials (such as the Infant Toddler Credential).
3. **Infant Toddler Credential (ITC):** The Infant Toddler Credential validates the specialized knowledge, skills and experience necessary for practitioners to work with children birth to three years of age. Practitioners applying for the ITC must also meet the guidelines and requirements for the ECE Credential.
4. **Level 1 ECE Credential:** The Level 1 ECE Credential consists of 48 hours of training designed for anyone considering a career working with children or those who are new to the Early Care and Education field.

In the future a 5th credential is on the horizon, this is the Illinois School Age & Youth Credential (ISAY). This credential will validate the specialized knowledge, skills and experience necessary for practitioners to work with school age and youth.

General information, as well as the direct route application and information on entitled institutions that offer the credentials can be found on this website www.ilgateways.com.