

# Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential

A Collaboration Between: Charter Oak State College and  
Connecticut Parenting Education Network



Preparing professionals in parenting education

## What is the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential?

The foundation of ANY parenting education system is the parenting educator. Like classroom teachers and social workers, parenting educators must be professional – and must be recognized as professionals. The Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential establishes consistent criteria for the knowledge, skills, and experience needed by all parenting educators. These educators include home visitors, trainers, facilitators, and parenting education coordinators.

The Connecticut Parenting Education Network (CT-PEN), a state-wide network of organizations and individual parenting educators, seeks to create a coordinated system of parenting education and support. Its goal is to strengthen and enhance parents' (or other primary caregivers') ability to rear caring, competent, and healthy children.

The Connecticut Department of Children and Families and the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund provided generous support to CT-PEN to engage partners, reach out to local parenting educators, and include parents in the development of a professional credential for parenting educators. CT-PEN's partners in this effort included the Parent Aide Coalition of Connecticut, Connecticut Family Resource Center Alliance, Connecticut Parents as Teachers, Connecticut Youth Services Association, Children's Trust Fund, Connecticut Commission on Children, University of Connecticut Department of Family Studies and University Extension, Charter Oak State College, Connecticut Chats-a-Course, and Quinnipiac University.

The Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential is issued through Charter Oak State College to applicants who have successfully met the requirements necessary to obtain the Credential at a specific level. The Credential acknowledges that, as a professional, you have obtained knowledge, experience, and competency in the core areas of knowledge for parenting educators and adhere to the CT-PEN Parenting Educators' Code of Ethics.

*Membership in CT-PEN is required to apply.*



## Core Areas of Knowledge for Parenting Educators

The Credential is based on the National Extension Parenting Educators' Framework (NEPEF) which focuses on a set of priority practices for parents and serves as the basis for parenting educator skills and on the CT-PEN Parenting Educators' Code of Ethics.

Applicants for the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential are required to document their knowledge by presenting evidence of the following:

**All levels of the Credential require current membership in CT-PEN and the following:**

- One research-based parenting education training in any one of the following curricula, depending on the ages of the children of families served:
  - Parents-As-Teachers – birth to 5, includes Home Visiting.
  - Building Family Futures – birth to school-age.
  - Strengthening Families – school-age.
- Completion of the non-credit, online course Fundamentals of Parenting Education. This course is required and will be a self-paced overview of the NEPEF and the CT-PEN Parenting Educators' Code of Ethics.

**Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4 Require 12 credits or equivalent in each of the following areas:**

- Lifespan/Human Development (e.g., Infancy, Childhood, Adolescent, Adulthood)
- Family Systems (e.g., Family Dynamics, Work and Family, Single, Divorced, and Blended Families)
- Group Process/Communication (e.g., Interpersonal / Family Communications, Theory of Group Management, Group Dynamics)
- Adult Learning Theory and Methods (e.g., Learning Theory, Managing Learning Environments; Engaged Learning)

**Levels 2, 3 & 4 Require a College Degree**

Degree majors /concentrations related to Parenting Education include: Parenting Education, Social Work, Behavioral Sciences (PSY/SOC), Education, Human Development, Family Studies, Child Studies, Counseling, Human Services.



## Pathways to Meeting the Education and Training Requirements

- Approved credit-based course work offered by regionally accredited colleges or universities.
- Approved standardized tests (e.g., CLEP, DANTES, Pathways Exams at Charter Oak State College).
- Approved research-based parenting education curriculum training.
- Non-Collegiate programs recommended for credit by Charter Oak State College through the Connecticut Credit Assessment Program (CCAP).
- Holders of the Family Development Credential (FDC) issued by The Children's Trust Fund may meet requirements for six credits toward the CT Parenting Educator Credential by meeting education requirements for *Family Systems & Adult Learning*.

## Experience Requirements for the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential

At each level of the Credential, applicants must document that they have an appropriate amount of experience as a parenting educator. Experience requirements for each level are:

### Provisional: High School Diploma or GED. Expires in 4 years.

- **One year of full-time supervised experience as a parenting educator.** (Non-Renewable)

The Provisional Parenting Educator may use one or more research-based curricula under direct supervision and regular observation to:

- deliver at least one research-based parenting education curriculum.
  - implement service and lesson plans with individual parents or families.
  - facilitate parent or parent-child groups.
- **Designed to bring people into the credentialing process and encourage their professional growth and to serve as a pathway to obtain a recognizable credential for their work as parenting educators. Holders of the Provisional Level may move into a higher level by completing education requirements at renewable levels 1 to 4.**

### Level 1 Parenting Educator: High School Diploma or GED plus 12 credits or equivalent in core subject areas.

- **One year of full time supervised experience as a parenting educator.** (Renew in 3 years)

The Level 1 Parenting Educator may use one or more research-based curricula under direct supervision to:

- deliver at least one research-based parenting education curriculum.
- implement service and lesson plans with individual parents or families.
- facilitate parent or parent-child groups.

### Level 2 Parenting Educator: Associate Degree, 12 credits or equivalent in core subject areas.

- **One year of full-time supervised experience as a parenting educator if degree is in a related field; two years experience as a parenting educator if degree is in an unrelated field.** (Renew in 3 years)

The Level 2 Parenting Educator may use one or more research-based curricula under direct supervision to:

- carry out all responsibilities described in Level 1.
- teach parent or parent-child groups.
- individualize both service and lesson plans for parents or families.

**Level 3 Parenting Educator: Bachelor's Degree, 12 credits or equivalent in core subject areas.**

- **Two years of full-time supervised experience as a parenting educator if degree is in a related field; four years as a parenting educator if in an unrelated field.** (Renew in 3 years)

The Level 3 Parenting Educator, using one or more research-based curricula and resource materials, may:

- carry out all responsibilities described in Levels 1 and 2.
- design, develop and deliver parent or parent-child groups using one or more research-based curricula.
- conduct ongoing and comprehensive programs of parenting education.
- supervise Level 1, 2 and 3 Parenting Educators.

### Level 4 Parenting Educator: Master's Degree or higher, 12 credits or equivalent in core subject areas.

- **Two years of full-time supervised experience as a parenting educator if degree is in a related field; four years as a parenting educator if in an unrelated field.** (Renew in 3 years)

The Level 4 Parenting Educator may carry out all responsibilities described in Levels 1, 2, and 3; and may:

- design, develop, deliver, and evaluate professional development programs.
- design, develop, deliver, and evaluate research-based parenting education curricula.
- consult on issues related to child development, family life education, and adult learning.
- hold membership in professional organizations and actively engage in their activities.
- supervise Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 Parenting Educators.



LEVEL	MINIMUM EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS	EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	PARENTING EDUCATOR REQUIREMENTS	RENEWAL
PROVISIONAL	High School Diploma (or GED)	One year supervised experience (full-time: 35 hrs/wk, or equivalent) as a parenting educator; and receiving direct supervision and observation on a regular basis	Non-Credit online course in Fundamentals of Parenting Education Training in one research-based parenting education curriculum	Non-Renewable Expires in 4 years (You can move up to a higher level by completing additional education requirements)
LEVEL ONE	High School Diploma (or GED)	One year supervised experience (full-time: 35 hrs/wk, or equivalent) as a parenting educator; and receiving direct supervision and observation on a regular basis	Non-Credit online course in Fundamentals of Parenting Education Training in one research-based parenting education curriculum Twelve (12) credits or equivalent in the required subject areas	Renew every 3 years <b>Requirements:</b> 45 hours of documented professional development related to parenting education
LEVEL TWO	AA/AS Degree	One year supervised experience (full-time: 35 hrs/wk, or equivalent) as a parenting educator if AA/AS is in related field; 2 years as a parenting educator if in unrelated field	Non-Credit online course in Fundamentals of Parenting Education Training in one research-based parenting education curriculum Twelve (12) credits or equivalent in the required subject areas	Renew every 3 years <b>Requirements:</b> 45 hours of documented professional development related to parenting education
LEVEL THREE	BA/BS Degree	2 years supervised experience (full-time: 35 hrs/wk, or equivalent) as a parenting educator if BA/BS is in related field; 4 years as a parenting educator if in unrelated field	Non-Credit online course in Fundamentals of Parenting Education Training in one research-based parenting education curriculum Twelve (12) credits or equivalent in the required subject areas	Renew every 3 years <b>Requirements:</b> 45 hours of documented professional development related to parenting education
LEVEL FOUR	MA/MS Degree or higher	2 years supervised experience (full-time: 35 hrs/wk, or equivalent) as a parenting educator if MA/MS is in related field; 4 years as a parenting educator if in unrelated field	Non-Credit online course in Fundamentals of Parenting Education Training in one research-based parenting education curriculum Twelve (12) credits or equivalent in the required subject areas	Renew every 3 years <b>Requirements:</b> 45 hours of documented professional development related to parenting education

## Costs Associated with the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential

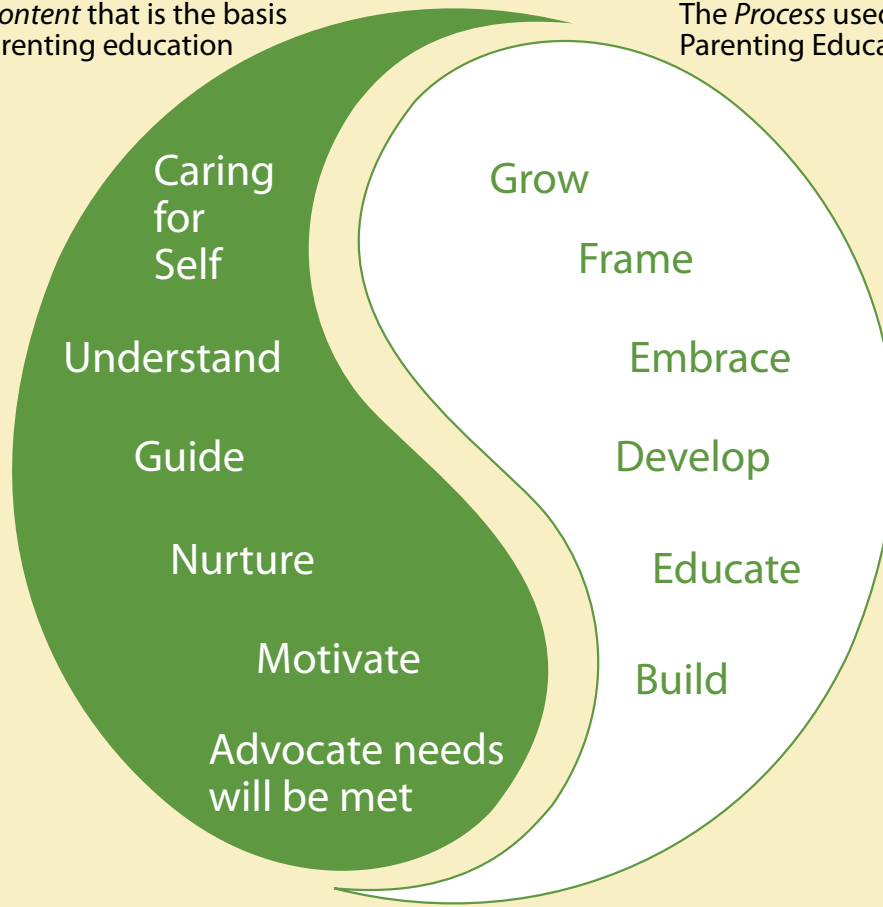
You must be a current member of CT-PEN to apply: Applications for the Credential are accepted year round. The Application Fee is valid for one year from the date of payment. During that period, you are free to submit materials to complete your credentialing requirements whenever they become available. If you hold a current credential and apply for another level, you pay only the Credentialing Fee, not another application fee. Renewal cost is \$75.

	PROVISIONAL LEVEL	LEVEL ONE	LEVEL TWO	LEVEL THREE	LEVEL FOUR
Application Fee \$75 Online Course \$45	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120
Credentialing Fee	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Renewal Due	NOT RENEWABLE	3 YEARS – \$75	3 YEARS – \$75	3 YEARS – \$75	3 YEARS – \$75

## Categories and Priority Parenting Practices

The *Content* that is the basis  
for parenting education

The *Process* used by  
Parenting Educators



To learn more about the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential,  
visit: [www.ctpen.org](http://www.ctpen.org) or [www.charteroak.edu/cpec](http://www.charteroak.edu/cpec)

- Contact Carole Weisberg, Coordinator  
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- E-mail [cweisberg@charteroak.edu](mailto:cweisberg@charteroak.edu)
- Call 860-832-3855