



# Recognized Prior Learning (RPL) Project

## Questions and Answers

- 1. What is RPL?** A. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is an alternative pathway to assess and recognize existing skills and knowledge. Go to the AECENS website (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) for more information.
- 2. Is RPL a diploma?** A. RPL is not an academic credential. It is a process to enable individuals to demonstrate they possess the necessary skills and knowledge.
- 3. How do I qualify for the ECE RPL Pilot?** A. Go to the AECENS website (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) to review the eligibility criteria to see if you qualify to participate.
- 4. Is post-secondary education required to qualify for the ECE RPL pilot?** A. No, experience is required, training is an asset. Go to (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) to review the eligibility criteria.
- 5. How much experience is required to qualify for the ECE RPL pilot?** A. At least 5 years of full-time experience in the last 8 years (full time). Go to (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) to review the eligibility criteria.
- 6. Am I required to take any courses?** A. No, you are not required to take any courses. However, preparation for the assessment is strongly recommended. Individuals can prepare by reviewing the ECE **Competency Profile** (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) and using the resources referenced in the Candidate Guide (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>).
- 7. What is a competency profile?** A. Competency Profile describes the knowledge, skills and abilities commonly required for educators working in regulated child care or pre-primary programs to perform their job effectively, safely and properly. Go to AECENS (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) for more information.
- 8. What do I have to do to show I am competent?** A. Meet the eligibility criteria, successfully complete both an exam & interview. Go to AECENS (<https://nschildcareassociation.org/rpl>) for more information.
- 9. When does the ECE RPL pilot begin?** A. The pilot will be in two parts---an exam and a situational interview. The exam will take place August 22 and 24 with the interview following September 9- 21. Application forms will be available on the AECENS website by May 1, 2019 and must be submitted by May 31, 2019. You will be notified by June 30, 2019 if you have been selected for the pilot.
- 10. Is there a fee?** A. Commonly there is a fee associated with the delivery of an RPL process. However, there is no fee to participate in the ECE RPL pilot.

**Do I have to take time off work?** A. You may have to take time off work to participate in the 3-hour exam and one-and-a-half-hour interview, plus travel time.

**11. How do I get my Level 2 Classification?** A. On successful completion of both the exam and interview you will receive a letter to identify your competence. Use this evidence to apply for a classification with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/ClassificationforStaff.shtml>

**12. Should I continue to take post-secondary ECE coursework?** A. Yes. 1. You may not have enough experience to qualify for RPL. 2. Post-secondary coursework is good preparation for RPL. 3. An academic qualification is preferable if you intend to do further post-secondary study.