Bank Street Graduate School of Education
Early Childhood General Education Advanced Standing Program

While many New York City early childhood teachers have considerable teaching experience, hundreds do not have state certification. To help address this need, the Bank Street Graduate School of Education designed the Early Childhood General Education Advanced Standing Program to provide an opportunity for experienced early childhood teachers serving low-income children and families to earn a Bank Street master's degree and New York State certification in Early Childhood (Birth through Grade 2) while employed as full-time educators.

Grounded in our commitment to public schooling, the 30-credit, competency-based cohort program allows teachers to maintain their current teaching positions while advancing their understanding of child development as it relates to early learning. Students will leave the program with deeper knowledge of planning curriculum and creating and maintaining effective learning environments that meet the needs of our youngest learners.

Our Approach

Bank Street's approach recognizes that early childhood is a critical period in learning and development. Like all Bank Street degree programs, the Advanced Standing Program is grounded in the developmental-interaction approach, which builds upon the idea that children learn best when they are actively engaged with materials, ideas, and people.

The program's curriculum is steeped in the belief that powerful learning comes in the form of play, social interaction, sensory experiences, and engagement in the world of literacy, literature, mathematics, science, art, and social studies. Graduate students hone their skills through an integrative model that combines the study of human development, pedagogical and leadership practices, and sustained clinical experience to ensure significant development as teachers.

Participants complete their supervised fieldwork in the setting where they are already a full-time teacher and receive guidance and mentorship from a Bank Street faculty member who is an experienced teacher and advisor. Through the program, Bank Street aims to ensure that a growing number of educators are prepared to nurture the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of young children.

The Early Childhood General Education Advanced Standing Program culminates in a Master of Science in Education.



