

**Child Development Associates** effectively care for and educate young children in homes, centers, or school settings. The credentialing process is a powerful tool to help you gain the knowledge to put competency standards into practice and understand how to help children move with success from one developmental stage to another.



**Students who are accepted** will participate in a rigorous, online, year-long curriculum. They will be eligible to apply for the CDA credential once they complete the course, the portfolio, and 480 hours of professional work experience.

The class will be presented online through DIAL Virtual School. The instruction will include guidance provided by the instructor to assist students with the class requirements.

Students will be assigned online activities, and quizzes that will require them to work independently and with their child care site.

A local state-licensed childcare site will be needed to provide 480 hours of work experience (may include previous work).

### **Eight CDA Subject Areas**

1. Planning a safe and healthy learning environment
2. Advancing children's physical and intellectual development
3. Supporting children's social and emotional development
4. Building productive relationships with families
5. Managing an effective program operation
6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
7. Observing and recording children's behavior
8. Understanding principles of child development and learning.

### **Credentialing Process**

- Successfully complete the CDA curriculum
- Complete the required portfolio (can be electronic)
- Complete 480 hours of work experience with **EITHER** Birth-3 **OR** 3-5 year olds
- Complete a paper application (\$75) or online application (discounted fee)
- Upon approval, schedule CDA exam and CDA 4-hour verification visit (\$500) (Scholarships may be available)

More Information:

[cdacouncil.org/en/high-school-pathways/](http://cdacouncil.org/en/high-school-pathways/)

# **Child Development Associate**



**Online Credentialing Opportunity  
For High School Juniors and Seniors**



DIAL Virtual School  
PO Box 518  
Platte SD 57369  
(606) 337-3178

## Students

- 2023-2024 Juniors and Seniors (limited to 15)
- Interested in working with children
- Dedicated to online learning
- Ability to work on a team
- Professional behavior while completing 480 hours of required student work experience
- Appropriate dress at work site
- Complete the portfolio

### Recommended Prerequisite Classes:

Human Development: Prenatal to Toddlers

Human Development: Preschool to School Age

Classes available at SD Virtual School

[sdcve.k12.sd.us](http://sdcve.k12.sd.us)



## Parents

- Support student commitment
- Time to study
- Transportation to work site
- Costs not covered by the school – including portfolio, application, exam fee

## School

- Grant 1 credit for online class – Year-long/ 120 hours
- Provide a school facilitator for the DIAL class
- Assist student to find a cooperating child care site for work experience
- Support student with completing portfolio



## Site

- Must be state licensed
  - Birth to 36 months
  - Ages 3-5
- Provide work experiences for the child development associate student
- Communicate with the instructor
- Allow for an on-site 4-hour verification visit

## Class Cost

DIAL Virtual School  
Educational Service Fee:  
\$ 650 full year  
(\$ 325 per semester)

**NO COST for DIAL Member Schools.**

## Application Process

1. Students fill out the application form on the DIAL website [dialsd.net](http://dialsd.net) ("courses offered" tab) by May 19.
2. Students will be accepted in May. Parents & administrators will be notified and asked to confirm support of the student.
3. Administrators will enroll accepted students in the class by August 15, 2023, through the SD Virtual School, [sdcve.k12.sd.us](http://sdcve.k12.sd.us)

