

The AECEO & College of Early Childhood Educators

The *Early Childhood Educators Act, 2007*, established the [College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario](#) (CECE), the regulatory college for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). Registration with the college is mandatory if you wish to work in a position labeled Early Childhood Educator and/or call yourself an Early Childhood Educator. The CECE website outlines that the Act includes:

- A definition of what constitutes the practice of the profession;
- A requirement for persons to be members [of the college] in order to practice the profession;
- Title protection authorizing only members of the College to use the titles "early childhood educator" or "registered early childhood educator" or an abbreviation;



The primary role of the college, as defined in the Act, is to protect the public and hold the profession and those using the professional title of 'Early Childhood Educator' accountable. As outlined on the college website, "the College is not an educational institution or a professional association that advocates for early childhood educators. It is an organization that helps to serve and protect children and families by setting registration requirements and ethical and professional standards for registered early childhood educators (RECEs), and governing member conduct through a complaints and discipline process".

In contrast, the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO) is the professional association for early childhood educators and has a mandate to advocate on behalf of the profession and support their work by responding to current issues on their behalf, providing ongoing resources and information about the ECEC field, and providing opportunities for professional development and collaboration.