

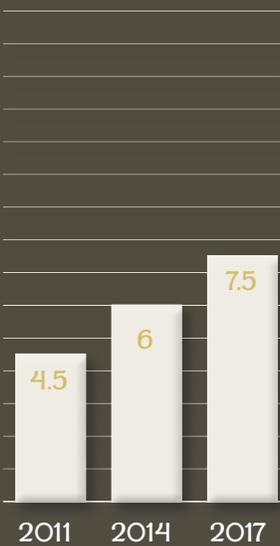
# SASKATCHEWAN

## PROFILE 2017

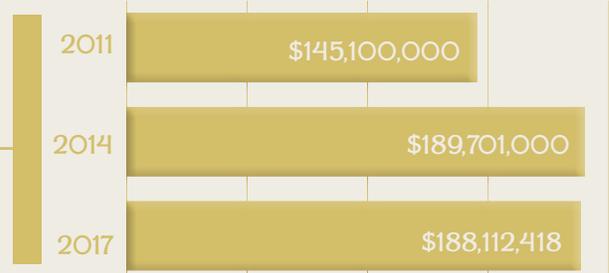
### TRENDS IN ECEC FROM 2011-2017



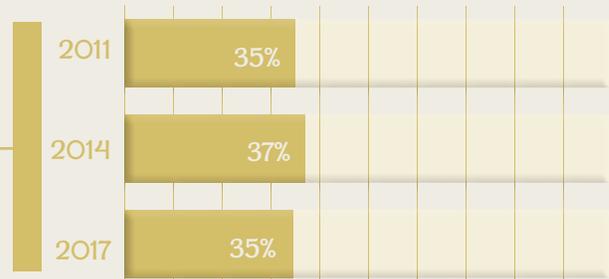
#### ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS



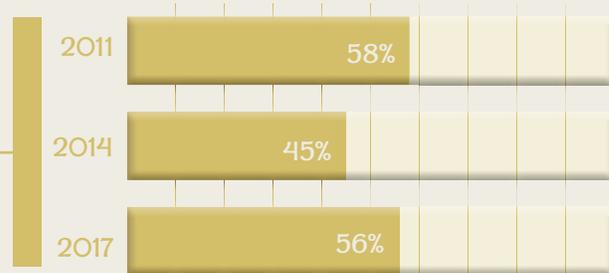
#### CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



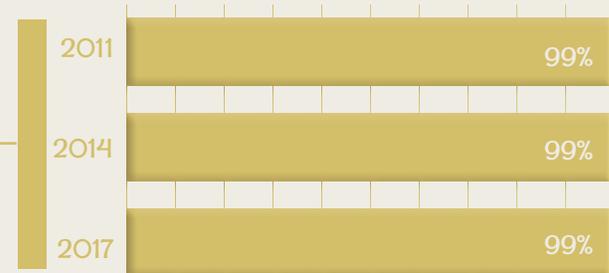
#### PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS ATTENDING ECEC



#### ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



#### PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



## 1. GOVERNANCE

Lead Ministry/ Department	Ministry of Education
Related Ministry/ Department	Ministry of Social Services
Policy Framework	<i>Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016-2020</i> <sup>2</sup>
Common ECE Supervisory Unit	The Early Years Branch, Ministry of Education <sup>1</sup>
Legislation	<i>The Child Care Act, 2014</i> <sup>3</sup>  <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015</i> <sup>4</sup> (last amended 2016) <sup>5</sup>  <i>The Education Act, 1995</i> (last amended 2017) <sup>6</sup>
Related Legislation	
Local Service Delivery	Prekindergarten and Kindergarten: 28 school divisions including Conseil des écoles fransaskoises <sup>7</sup>  Child care: 3 regional offices of the Early Learning and Child Care Program  KidsFirst: 8 targeted communities plus the North <sup>8</sup>  KidsFirst Regional: 10 Southern Regional Health Authorities  Early Childhood Intervention Program: 12 volunteer boards and 2 school divisions <sup>9</sup>
Community/Sector Oversight	Early Years Networks in communities <sup>10</sup>

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

In 2016, the province released *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016-2020*,<sup>11</sup> outlining goals to support children's healthy development. Through the Early Years Plan, the province expects to improve prenatal and early childhood support for mothers and children; provide better access to high quality early learning and child care options; support families in their role as parents and caregivers; and align programs and services at provincial and community levels.

As of October 19, 2015, responsibility for teacher certification moved from the Ministry of Education to the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board with the enactment of *The Registered Teachers Act*.<sup>12</sup> *Essential Learning Experiences*<sup>13</sup> is a supporting document to *Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide* (2013). It was created to provide further information about the domains of holistic learning for preschool-aged children.

Amendments to child care legislation allow the province to license child care facilities on First Nations reserves if requested.

The government's 2017–18 budget continues to invest in the early years by providing funding for 889 new spaces, including 810 spaces at the 18 new joint-use schools<sup>14</sup> in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville.

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Ministry of Education, Early Years Branch provides leadership for programming for children from birth to age 8. Responsibilities include managing community-based programs (i.e., KidsFirst, Early Childhood Intervention Programs and Child Nutrition Program); licensing, monitoring and supporting early learning and child care; managing the prekindergarten program; and supporting kindergarten.<sup>15</sup>

The Ministry of Social Services administers the Child Care Subsidy Program.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

*Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016–2020* provides strategies to:

- focus on healthy childhood development, including prenatal and early childhood support for mothers and children;
- improve parent choice and access to high quality early learning and child care opportunities;
- support families in their role as parents and caregivers; and
- align programs and services at the provincial and community levels.

## SERVICE DESIGN<sup>16</sup>

### Education Programs

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarten is not a mandated program, but most school divisions offer at least a half-time program (half days every day or full days every other day). School divisions are responsible for establishing the age of entry.

**Prekindergarten:** Prekindergarten is a school-based targeted early education program available for 3- and 4-year-old children living in vulnerable environments. A qualified teacher and assistant provide programming for 16 children for a minimum of 12 hours/week during the school year. A total of 316 programs are offered free of charge throughout the province.

### Regulated Child Care

**Child care centres:** The ministry licenses group programs for infants to children up to and including 12 years of age. Programs are operated predominantly by non-profit boards and agencies and a small number are sponsored by municipalities. For-profit programs do not receive operational funding, and parent fee subsidies may not be used in for-profit facilities.<sup>17</sup>

**Teen Student Support Centres:** These programs provide licensed child care for more than five continuous hours/day, three or more days/week, primarily for the infants and toddlers of young parents attending a high school or a high school equivalency program.<sup>18</sup>

**Family child care homes:** There are three types of licensed family child care homes:<sup>19</sup>

- *Family child care* homes are operated by one provider caring for up to eight children (including the provider's own children under 13 years of age). Numbers vary depending on the ages of the children.
- *Group family child care* homes are operated by a provider and an assistant for up to 12 children including the children who reside in the home. Numbers vary depending on the ages of the children.
- *Teen student support family child care* homes operate for up to six children, including the provider's own children.

### Unregulated Child Care

**Unlicensed daycare homes** follow the same regulated numbers and ages of children as licensed child care homes. A caregiver may care for a maximum of eight children, including the provider's own children under 13 years of age.

**Preschools** operating for not more than three hours per day do not require a licence.<sup>20</sup>

**Before and after school programs** serve school-age children and operate on school premises. These programs are often operated by non-profit organizations and are exempt from child care regulations.<sup>21</sup>

### Child/Family Services

The *KidsFirst* Targeted Program is a voluntary program that supports positive learning experiences and the holistic development of children from birth to 3 years of age living in vulnerable circumstances in eight targeted communities plus the North. It provides multifaceted services to families using an interdisciplinary team model that includes paraprofessionals (e.g., home visitors) and professionals (e.g., mental health and addictions staff), while providing linkages to child care, early learning and other community supports that will help eligible parents deal with issues affecting them.

The *KidsFirst* Regional Program's early childhood community developers work with community stakeholders and partners by helping communities to align services and stimulate community development that support vulnerable families, while promoting positive early childhood development and community capacity in each of the 10 southern health regions.

*Early Childhood Intervention Programs (ECIP)* belong to a province-wide network of community-based supports for the families of children experiencing developmental delays from birth to age six. Early childhood interventionists and consultants deliver home-based services and provide a link between families and other service providers to support transitions between services and school.<sup>22</sup>

### LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Twenty-eight school divisions support kindergarten and prekindergarten and *prématernelle* programs: eighteen public school divisions, eight separate Roman Catholic school divisions, one separate Protestant school division and one Francophone school division.<sup>23</sup>

Three regional offices with eight branch offices of the Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery Unit monitor, license and consult with regulated child care programs.<sup>24</sup>

An integrated management committee governs 10 KidsFirst programs situated in geographic areas of greatest need. These management committees advise and support the accountable partner, which is either a school division or a regional health authority.

Fourteen ECIP organizations located across Saskatchewan employ interventionists who deliver services primarily in the family home. ECIP interventionists participate in transition planning to social and learning centres such as child care and school settings.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

N/A

## 2. FUNDING

**Table 2.1 Saskatchewan Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2017<sup>25</sup>**

Child care fee subsidies <sup>26</sup>	\$14,085,000
Operating funds <sup>27</sup>	\$52,891,000
Total regulated child care	\$66,976,000

**Table 2.2 Saskatchewan Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care to March 31, 2017**

Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	\$75,655,418
Prekindergarten <sup>b</sup>	\$26,000,000
Regulated child care	\$66,976,000
Early Childhood Intervention Program	\$3,953,000
Other ECE spending ( <i>KidsFirst</i> )	\$15,528,000
Total ECEC spending	\$188,112,418
Total provincial budget spending estimate	\$12,513,073,000
ECEC as a percent of provincial budget	1.5%

a Estimate based on 2016 kindergarten enrolment (13,716). (Ministry of Education. Personal communication, September 14, 2017).

b Based on 5,056 children in 316 Prekindergarten programs. (Ministry of Education).

### 3. ACCESS

**Table 3.1 Saskatchewan Child Population 0–5 Years (2016)<sup>a</sup>**

Child population 0–5 years	92,648
0–1 year	31,669
2–4 years	45,849
5 years	15,130
Total population of Saskatchewan	1,150,632
Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population	8.1%

a Statistics Canada, Table O51-0001-Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2016, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed April 24, 2017).

**Table 3.2 Saskatchewan Labour Force Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2016)**

	Number mothers in labour force by age of youngest child <sup>a</sup>	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child <sup>b</sup>
0–1 year	15,800	66.4%
2–4 years	18,400	74.2%
5 years	3,700	76.1%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0–5 years	37,900	
Average labor force participation rate of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years		71.9%

a Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517\_29 Table 1.ivt.

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O717\_O4 Table 1.ivt.

**Table 3.3 Saskatchewan ECE School Programs**

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	13,716
% of 5-year-olds attending kindergarten	90.7%
Children attending prekindergarten <sup>b</sup>	5,056
% of 3–4-year-olds attending prekindergarten	16.7%

a Enrolment as of September 30, 2016. Note this percentage is underrepresented. Child population data includes First Nations children while kindergarten enrolment does not include students attending First Nations schools.

b *Ministry of Education Annual Report for 2016–2017*.<sup>28</sup>

**Table 3.4 Saskatchewan Licensed Child Care Programs to March 31, 2017<sup>29</sup>**

Spaces by age group in centre-based programs	
Infants and toddlers (0-35 months)	4,005
Preschool-aged (36 months-5 years)	6,076
School-aged (5-12 years)	1,325
<b>Total spaces centre-based programs<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>13,105</b>
Family child care/home and group	2,164
<b>Total capacity regulated child care<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>15,269</b>
Facilities by type	
Centre-based programs	318
Family child care providers	245
Facilities by auspice	Funded child care is non-profit

a The figure for total spaces in centre-based programs includes 1,699 flexible spaces. A flexible space may be occupied by a toddler, preschooler or school-age child.

b Figures as of March 2017. An additional 889 spaces are in development.<sup>30</sup>

**Table 3.5 Saskatchewan Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group**

Child Ages	Number of children <sup>a</sup>	Child care <sup>b/</sup> preschool	Kindergarten/ prekindergarten enrolment <sup>c</sup>	Other ECE programs <sup>d</sup>	% children attending ECEC program
0-1 year	31,669	4,005			12.6%
2-4 years	45,849	6,076	5,056	4,708	35%
5 years	15,130	e	13,716		91% <sup>f</sup>

a Statistics Canada. Table O51-0001 Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2016, Canada, provinces and territories (accessed April 24, 2017).

b Child care spaces as of March 31, 2017. Personal communications, Ministry of Education, May 24, 2017.

c Kindergarten enrolment as of September 30, 2016. Percentage understated because not all First Nations schools report enrolment to the Ministry of Education. Prekindergarten enrolment: Personal Communications, Ministry of Education, May 23, 2017.

d Includes Aboriginal Head Start and child care on First Nations. There are approximately 76 on-reserve child care facilities with 1,044 spaces monitored by First Nations.<sup>31</sup> These are not included in the provincial count of spaces. This is in addition to 79 Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve programs and 16 Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities sites (Email communication, AHSUNC, November 3, 2017) with an estimated enrolment of 1,504. Enrolment in 90 unlicensed preschools<sup>32</sup> estimated at 2,160 children based on a telephone survey. Children attending preschool may also attend child care.

e As the province collects enrolment numbers in the 5- to 12-year-old age category, it is not possible to estimate the number of 5-year-olds attending child care. For the purposes of this report it is assumed that 5-year-olds in child care also attend kindergarten.

f All children in the province have access to Kindergarten, this number represents actual enrolment.

## AFFORDABILITY

Child care programs set their own rates.

Government fee subsidies cannot be used in for-profit programs.

Subsidies are available to eligible families using a calculation that considers family size, the child's age, the location of a child care facility and the actual fee charged. Maximum subsidies are provided to families with monthly incomes below \$1,640 with one child. This threshold increases by \$100 for each additional child. Maximum subsidy rates are prescribed at monthly full-time and part-time rates depending on the type and location of the child care facility and the age of child, but do not exceed 90% of the fee charged.<sup>33</sup>

## INCLUSION

Inclusion funding is available to child care centres and licensed child care homes providing child care services for children with diverse needs. Grants of up to \$300 a month are available to assist with the cost of additional supervision required to meet the child's needs, and up to \$600 a year for equipment (\$1,200/year in exceptional cases). In cases where a child has complex needs and requires individualized attention, grants of up to \$2,000 monthly are available for additional staff. Inclusion grants must be renewed each year.<sup>34</sup>

## 4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Saskatchewan Curriculum Frameworks

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	<p><i>2010 Saskatchewan Curriculum: Kindergarten</i><sup>35</sup></p> <p>A number of additional tools are also available, including <i>Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten</i> (2009).</p> <p><i>Maternelle Programme Fransaskois</i><sup>36</sup> and <i>Maternelle Immersion française</i><sup>37</sup> are the provincial curricula for Fransaskois and French Immersion Kindergarten programs.</p>
Prekindergarten	<p><i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> (2008) promotes high quality, age-appropriate, play-based learning experiences for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children in a variety of settings including the home, child care, prekindergarten, preschool and other early childhood settings.</p> <p><i>Essential Learning Experiences</i> (2015), a supporting document to <i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> (2013), provides further information regarding the domains of holistic learning for preschool-aged children.</p> <p><i>Better Beginnings, Better Futures</i> (Revised 2008)<sup>38</sup> outlines practices, policy and guidelines for prekindergarten, emphasizing holistic development and family engagement.</p>

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**Table 4.1 Saskatchewan Curriculum Frameworks (continued)**

Program	Framework Document
Prekindergarten	<i>Family Engagement in Prekindergarten: A Resource Guide for Prekindergarten Teachers and Associates</i> (2012) supports programs in creating respectful, reciprocal relationships with families.
Early years programs	<i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> (2008)  <i>Essential Learning Experiences</i> (2015) is a supplement/supporting document to <i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> .
Early years (Francophone)	<i>Jouer et explorer, Guide du programme d'apprentissage, Pour la petite enfance</i> (Septembre 2008)
Child care/ infants and toddlers	<i>Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers. A companion booklet to Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> (Fall 2010)

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

**Kindergarten class size:** There is no maximum class size for kindergarten. In 2015–16, the average number of children in a kindergarten classroom was 16.3. Prekindergarten classes are capped at 16.<sup>39</sup>

**Child care program size:** A regulated child care centre may have a maximum of 90 spaces. The maximum number of infant spaces per centre is 12.<sup>40</sup>

**Table 4.2 Saskatchewan Group Size and Staff/Child Ratio in Licensed Child Care Centres**

Age	Staff : Child Ratio	Class Size
6 weeks–less than 18 months	1:3	6
18 months–less than 30 months	1:5	10
30 months and over, including kindergarten	1:10	20
6–12 years	1:15	30
Family Home Daycare Program		
Family child care homes	1:8 including provider's own children under 13 years of age	8
Group family child care homes	1:12 including children who reside in the home	12
Teen student support family child care homes	1:6 including provider's own children	6

## EDUCATORS

**Table 4.3 Saskatchewan Educator Qualifications**

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers	Early Childhood Educators
Bachelor of Education degree or equivalent is required, including 48 semester hours of professional education and a practicum. <sup>41</sup>	<p><b>ECE Certification Levels:</b><sup>42</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECE Level I</b> – Completion of an ECE orientation from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution, or completion of nine credit units (three courses) directly related to early childhood, including one course from each of three areas: child development, programming and relationships.</li> <li>• <b>ECE Level II</b> – Completion of a one year ECE certificate from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.</li> <li>• <b>ECE Level III</b> – Completion of a two year ECE diploma from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.</li> </ul>

**Table 4.4 Saskatchewan Professional Requirement and Development**

Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECEs
The Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) is responsible for teacher certification, with the enactment of <i>The Registered Teachers Act 2015</i> . Annual registration with the SPTRB is required to teach in Saskatchewan's publicly funded PreK-12 education system.	Educator Services, Ministry of Education assesses all applicants and provides ministry certification for ECE levels I, II and III. <sup>43</sup>

**Table 4.5 Saskatchewan Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres<sup>44</sup>**

ECE Level I <sup>a</sup>	Minimum for all staff
ECE Level II	30% of staff
ECE Level III <sup>b</sup>	20% of staff, including director and supervisors

a Applies to child care centre staff working with children for 65 hours/month or more. Individuals who work fewer than 65 hours/month are not required to have ECE certification.

b Directors of child care centres require an ECE Level III.

**Table 4.6 Saskatchewan Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries**

Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	ECE Salary as % of Teacher Salary
\$62,147	\$34,611	56%

a Based on a four-year degree and five years of teaching experience according to 2016 collective agreement.<sup>45</sup>

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517\_31 Table 1.ivt.

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Progress Reports:** The Ministry of Education releases an annual report<sup>46</sup> that is tabled in the legislature on or before July 29 each year. The report communicates both financial and non-financial results achieved over the preceding year.

**Program Standards:** Child care programs require licensing. Saskatchewan's 2009 Curriculum outlines program standards for kindergarten and prekindergarten environments.<sup>47</sup>

**Population Monitoring:** Results from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) were last collected by provincial school divisions in Saskatchewan in 2012–13, although not all provincial school divisions participated. A phased implementation began in fall 2012 of the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) – Teacher Assessment (TA), a mandated screening tool that provides a leading indicator of children's development with a focus on literacy. EYE results help to guide schools in planning and practice for meeting the learning needs of whole classes, small groups and individual children at a critical point in the early years. All 28 school divisions used the EYE-TA during 2016–17 collections.

## ENDNOTES

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