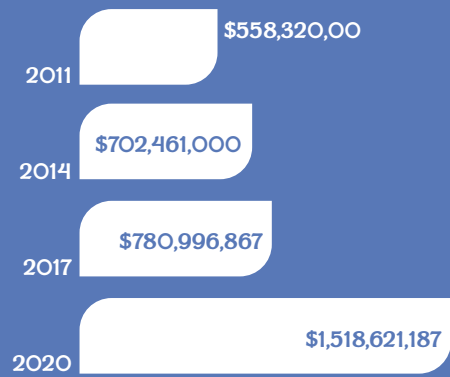
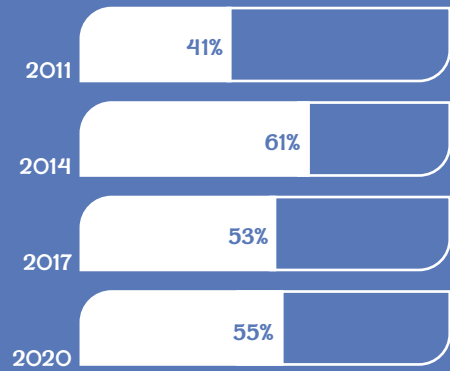


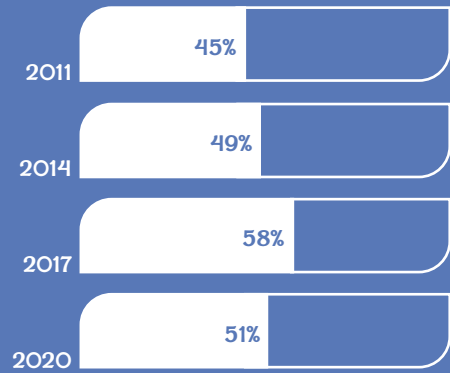
### CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



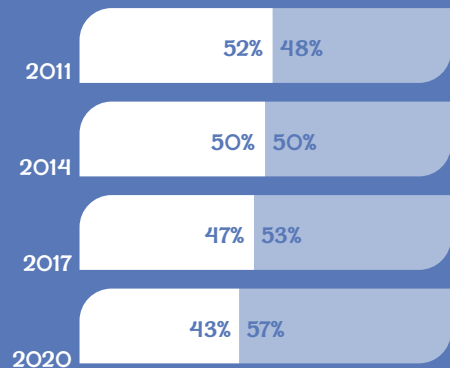
### PERCENTAGE OF 2- TO 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ATTENDING ECEC



### ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES

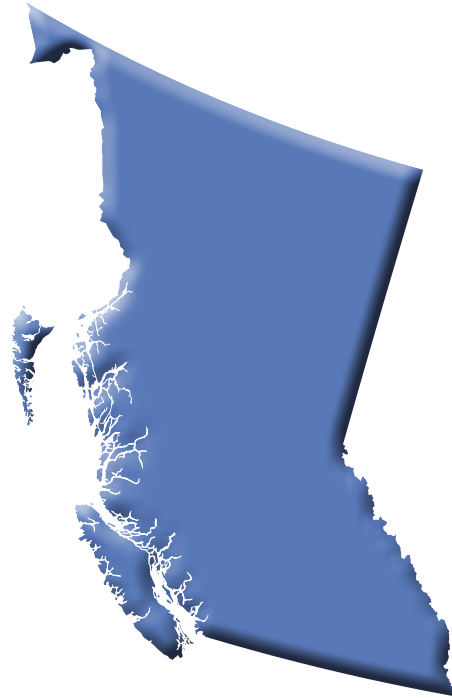


### PERCENTAGE OF ECE FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020

# BRITISH COLUMBIA



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020



## ABOUT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT BENCHMARKS

The Early Childhood Education Report (ECER) is produced by the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. Twenty-one benchmarks are organized into five equally weighted categories, totalling a score of 15. The benchmarks evaluate governance structures, funding levels, access, quality in early learning environments, and the rigour of accountability mechanisms. Results are populated from detailed provincial and territorial profiles developed by the researchers and reviewed by provincial and territorial officials.

For the Canada-wide overview, a detailed look at the benchmarks, the full methodology, and all federal, provincial, and territorial profiles please visit [ECEReport.ca](https://ecereport.ca).

Please cite this publication as:

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This British Columbia profile captures early learning and child care initiatives to March 31, 2020. The New Developments section highlights activities occurring after this date.

The Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement doubled to \$2 per hour on April 1, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The province continues to implement its 10 year plan for universal child care.<sup>2</sup> In April 2021, it

instituted a cap on fees for new child care facilities receiving funding from the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI). The fee cap for newly established facilities keeps monthly fees in line with those charged by other local providers delivering the same type of care. Prior to this change, a new child care facility could set their initial monthly fees at any level and qualify for the CCFRI.<sup>3</sup>

## COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

Between April 1 and August 31, 2020, the Province provided nearly \$320 million in Temporary Emergency Funding to child care operators to protect child care spaces. Temporary Emergency Funding was provided regardless of whether families chose to temporarily withdraw their child or if an operator chose to temporarily close a centre. B.C. was the only jurisdiction in Canada to support child care in this way.

In September 2020, the province received \$83 million in federal support to help ensure that safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents' return to work.

This funding is part of a larger \$625 million investment through the Safe Restart Agreement to address the key child care priorities established by Canada's First Ministers for the safe restart of the country's economy.

The Government of British Columbia established a web page dedicated to providing educators, providers, and families with health and safety guidelines for the delivery of child care during the pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

TABLE 1.1 BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

<b>Lead Ministries</b>	Ministry of Children and Family Development/The Minister of State for Child Care <sup>a</sup> Ministry of Education Ministry of Health
<b>Related Ministry</b>	Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
<b>ECE Supervisory Unit</b>	n/a
<b>Policy Framework</b>	<i>Child Care BC Caring For Kids, Lifting up Families: The Path to Universal Child Care</i> (February 2018) <sup>b</sup> <i>Early Years Service Framework</i> (June 2018) <sup>c</sup> <i>Early Learning Framework</i> (June 2018) <sup>d</sup> <i>Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy</i> (September 2018)
<b>Legislation</b>	<i>Child Care BC Act</i> (current to June 17, 2020) <sup>e</sup> Community Care and Assisted Living Act <i>Child Care Licensing Regulation</i> (includes amendments up to B.C. Reg. 118/2020, June 1, 2020) <sup>f</sup> <i>Child Care Subsidy Act</i> (current to June 17, 2020) <sup>g</sup> <i>Child Care Subsidy Regulation</i> (last amended May 14, 2020 by B.C. Reg. 104/2020) <sup>h</sup> <i>School Act [RSBC 1996] c.412.</i> (current to June 17, 2020) <sup>i</sup> <i>Teachers Act [SBC 2011]</i> (current to June 17, 2020) <sup>j</sup> and related regulations <sup>k</sup> <i>Independent School Act [RSBC 1996]</i> <sup>l</sup> (current to June 17, 2020) and related regulations last amended April 30, 2020 by B.C. Reg. 92/2020 <i>First Nations Education Act (2007)</i> (current to June 17, 2020) <sup>m</sup>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	<i>B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>
<b>Local Service Delivery</b>	Kindergarten and StrongStart BC early learning programs: 60 school districts including the Conseil scolaire francophone, plus independent schools (for Kindergarten only) <sup>n</sup> Licensed child care: Independent providers licensed by 5 Regional Health Authorities <sup>o</sup>
<b>Community/Sector Oversight</b>	The Provincial Child Care Council <sup>p</sup> School Planning Councils <sup>q</sup>

a Government of British Columbia. *Child and Family Development*. Retrieved from: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/children-and-family-development/child-care/factsheets>

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i Government of British Columbia. *School Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 412*. Retrieved from: [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96412\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96412_00)

j Government of British Columbia. *Teachers Act [SBC 2011] Chapter 19*. Retrieved from: [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/11019\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/11019_01)

k Government of British Columbia. *Teachers Act Related Regulations*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/manual-of-school-law/teachers-act-related-regulations>

l Government of British Columbia. *Independent School Act [RSBC 1996]*. Retrieved from: [http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00\\_07040\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_07040_01)

m Government of British Columbia. *First Nations Education Act (2007)*. Retrieved from: [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00\\_07040\\_01](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/00_07040_01)

n Government of British Columbia. *BC School District Boundaries*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/school-district>

o Government of British Columbia. *Follow the Rules for Operating a Licensed Child Care Facility*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/rules-operating-licensed-day-care>

p Government of British Columbia. *Provincial Child Care Council*. Retrieved from: <https://www.bcpublicsectorboardapplications.gov.bc.ca/s/tribunaldetail?boardNum=A-0483>

q Government of British Columbia. *School Planning Councils*. Retrieved from: [https://bccpac.bc.ca/upload/2016/05/lm-tab5\\_spc\\_0.pdf](https://bccpac.bc.ca/upload/2016/05/lm-tab5_spc_0.pdf)



## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is responsible for the development and administration of legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines pertaining to funding for child care and family support programs and services. The MCFD also administers the ECE Registry, which is responsible for the certification of ECEs and ECE Assistants, the investigation of practice concerns, and the recognition of ECE education programs at post-secondary institutions.

The Minister of State for Child Care is responsible for implementing initiatives that support the government's universal child care plan. The minister monitors and reports on results achieved through early learning and child care agreements with the federal government and consults with stakeholders to further inform the plan for universal child care.

The Ministry of Education (EDUC) establishes standards and policy direction for Kindergarten to Grade 12 and for the provision of funding to boards of education.<sup>5</sup> EDUC supports early learning in school districts by setting policies and providing funding for full-day Kindergarten and the later grades, StrongStart BC Early Learning Programs, and the Ready, Set, Learn program providing play-based learning, and Kindergarten transitions support.

In addition, teacher certification requirements are set by the BC Teachers' Council, and teacher certification is administered by the Teacher Certification Branch (EDUC).

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is responsible for the provincial health and safety legislation that governs licensed child care. MoH also has a stewardship role to support the five regional Health Authority Community Care Licensing Programs (CCFL) in carrying out the statutory duties of the legislation. CCFL program staff, under the direction of the local medical health officer, is responsible for issuing licences, carrying out routine inspections, and monitoring child care facilities to ensure the regulations are followed. Health authorities also investigate and

address complaints about facilities not meeting requirements, as well as complaints about unlicensed child care.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

*Child Care BC Caring For Kids, Lifting up Families: The Path to Universal Child Care* (February 2018) outlines a 10-year plan to expand and improve child care services.

*The Early Childhood Educators Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy* (September 2018)<sup>6</sup> is designed to retain and build the early care and learning workforce through enhanced wages, expanded post-secondary education programs, bursaries to offset education-related expenses, and expanded professional development opportunities, particularly for educators living in remote communities.

*The Early Years Service Framework* (June 2018) is designed to clarify the roles and mandates of the myriad of child, family, and intervention programs and services funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

## SERVICE DESIGN

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN** is available for all eligible 5-year-old children. Both public and some independent schools provide Kindergarten.<sup>7</sup> Kindergarten is optional in British Columbia, but nearly all children attend (98 percent of age cohort).

**STRONGSTART BC** operates 330 early learning programs across all 60 school districts, providing early learning activities for adults and their young children (from birth to 5 years of age). Programs operate five days per week, for a minimum of three hours per day.<sup>8</sup>

**READY, SET, LEARN** provides funding to school districts to host events or activities for children aged 3 to 5 years as an introduction to Kindergarten.<sup>9</sup>

## REGULATED CHILD CARE

There are two types of child care in British Columbia: licensed and licence-not-required.<sup>10</sup>

Licensed child care programs may provide care for three or more children for a maximum of 13 hours per day. They must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, space and equipment, staff-to-child ratios, and program standards. Licensed child care programs are monitored and inspected by regional Health Authority Community Care Facility Licensing staff. Licensed child care regulations apply to centre-based and family child care.

The *Child Care Licensing Regulation* specifies the following categories of child care (based on age of children, location, and number of children) that require licensing:

**GROUP CHILD CARE** - Care for children aged 36 months and younger.

**GROUP CHILD CARE** - Care for children from age 30 months to Kindergarten entry.

**PRESCHOOL** - Part-time care for children from age 30 months to Kindergarten entry for no more than four hours/day per child.

**GROUP CHILD CARE (SCHOOL AGE)** - Care outside of school hours and during holidays for school-aged children, including children attending Kindergarten.

**MULTI-AGE CHILD CARE** - Groups of eight children up to and including 12 years of age.

**FAMILY CHILD CARE** - Care in a personal residence for no more than seven children up to and including 12 years of age, including the provider's own children aged 12 years and younger.

**IN-HOME MULTI-AGE CHILD CARE** - Care in a personal residence by a certified ECE for no more than eight children up to and including 12 years of age, including the provider's own children aged 12 years and younger.

**OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE** - Short-term care for children at least 18 months of age, for no more than eight hours/day for each child and no more than 40 hours in a calendar month for each child. Enrolment numbers may vary depending on ages of children attending.

**CHILD-MINDING** - Short-term care for children up to and including 12 years of age for no more than 5 hours/day where the parents are on site attending programs/services for English as a Second Language, settlement, or labour market integration.

## UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated providers may care for a maximum of two children or one sibling group.

**REGISTERED LICENCE-NOT-REQUIRED CARE (RLNR):** Providers are registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, undergo criminal record checks, provide references, undergo a safety home-setting review, and complete first aid certification. Registered care providers have access to support, training, and resources.

**LICENCE-NOT-REQUIRED CARE (LNR):** LNR providers are not monitored or inspected. Parents and guardians are responsible for overseeing the care of their child in these arrangements.

**IN-CHILD'S-OWN-HOME CARE (ICH):** Caregivers are considered employees and parents assume employment responsibilities under BC employment standards requirements and make federal Employment Insurance and Canada Pension Plan payments. They are also responsible for meeting Canada Revenue Agency income-tax requirements.

## CHILD/FAMILY SERVICES

### SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**PROGRAM:** This community-based program assists families and child care providers to fully include children needing extra support in typical child care settings. The program serves children from birth up to and including 12 years of age; services for youth aged 13-19 years are available in some communities.<sup>11</sup>

**INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:** Serves children from birth to 3 years of age who are at risk for, or who already have, a delay in development.<sup>12</sup>

**FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS (FRP):** Provide community-based services designed to strengthen parenting skills, promote family and community engagement, and provide stimulating environments for children.<sup>13</sup>

**CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTRES (CCRR):** Support parents to find child care and offer training and supports to child care providers.<sup>14</sup>

**ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PROGRAM:** Operated by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, this program serves First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families and communities on reserve and in urban settings to increase parent access to child care resources and services.<sup>15</sup>

**ABORIGINAL INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:** Supports families of infants who are at risk for, or who have been diagnosed with, developmental delays. Programs are voluntary, family centred, and primarily focused on children up to and including 3 years of age (in some communities from 0–6 years). Consultants support families by providing home visits, activity planning, and developmental and family needs assessments in culturally sensitive and meaningful ways.<sup>16</sup>

**ABORIGINAL SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:** Offer community-based supports to assist First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families with children from birth to 12 years

of age access child care services that meet their extra support needs. Children aged 13–19 years may receive service on an individual basis. Services are delivered within a cultural model, respecting traditional protocol, language, and traditions.<sup>17</sup>

## LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

**KINDERGARTEN AND STRONGSTART BC EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS:** 60 school districts including the Conseil scolaire francophone, plus independent schools (for Kindergarten only).

**LICENSED CHILD CARE:** Independent providers licensed by five regional health authorities.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ OVERSIGHT

Every school in British Columbia has a school planning council (SPC). The councils are established by school boards, with representatives elected or appointed at the school. They include the school principal and teacher and parent representatives. SPCs ensure parents are involved in developing and monitoring the annual school plan to improve student achievement.

The Provincial Child Care Council advises and provides recommendations to the Minister of Children and Family Development and the Minister of State for Child Care. The council consists of between 14 and 21 members, each of whom is appointed by the minister. Members are appointed geographically with representation from the child care, education, business and nonprofit sectors, as well as First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous partners.

TABLE 2.1. BRITISH COLUMBIA ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

Child care operating funding	\$102,350,000
Regulated Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) <sup>a,b</sup>	\$205,917,111
Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement	\$21,000,000
Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative	\$97,110,000
Child Care Resource and Referral Centres	\$15,092,000
Supported Child Development	\$63,479,000
Child Care Space Creation Program <sup>c</sup>	\$87,339,000
Child Care Maintenance Fund	\$1,200,000
Child care administration	\$28,477,000
Federal funding through bilateral agreement	\$57,599,000
<b>Total regulated child care</b>	<b>\$679,563,111</b>

a ACCB comprises funding for fee subsidies, the Young Parent Program, and Single Parent Employment Initiative programs. The ACCB provincial funding is prorated based on actual spending.

b ACCB replaced the former Child Care Subsidy program effective September 2018.

c Child care space creation programs include the New Spaces Fund, which replaced the former Child Care Major Capital Program, and the Start-Up Grants Program.

TABLE 2.1A FEDERALLY FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Prototype sites	\$30,000,000
Aboriginal Head Start	\$10,000,000
Supported Child Development	\$10,000,000
Base allocation	\$51,000,000
Additional allocation based on Canadian population distribution	\$1,370,000
Young Parent Program (YPP)	\$1,000,000
Allocation deferred from fiscal 2018-2019	\$5,229,000
Total federal ELCC allocation	\$57,599,000



**TABLE 2.2 BRITISH COLUMBIA ALLOCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020**

Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	\$406,379,038
StrongStart BC <sup>a</sup>	\$10,400,000
Ready, Set, Learn <sup>a</sup>	\$2,750,000
Spending on regulated child care (Table 2.1)	\$679,563,111
<b>Total ECEC spending<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>\$1,099,092,149</b>
Total provincial spending budget estimate <sup>c</sup>	\$58.3 Billion
<b>ECEC as a % of provincial budget</b>	<b>2%</b>

- a Based on 2019-2020 Kindergarten enrolment of 46,538. Retrieved from: [https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-student-headcount-by-grade/resource/c1a55945-8554-4058-9019-514b16178f89?inner\\_span=True](https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-student-headcount-by-grade/resource/c1a55945-8554-4058-9019-514b16178f89?inner_span=True) Funding calculation for school-based early learning programs provided by Ministry of Education, Resource Management Division. January 2021.
- b Does not include federal funding to Indigenous communities through First Nations, Inuit, and Métis agreements.
- c Government of British Columbia. *Estimates, Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020*. Retrieved from: [https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/pdf/2019\\_Estimates.pdf](https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/pdf/2019_Estimates.pdf)

## REGULATED CHILD CARE FUNDING PROGRAMS

Over \$2 billion was invested in the first three years of Childcare BC, the province’s 10-year plan to deliver universal child care to B.C. families.

Licensed child care programs, except for Occasional Care and Child-Minding, may receive funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development through:<sup>18</sup>

**CHILD CARE OPERATING FUNDING** - Supports licensed group and family child care providers.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR WAGE ENHANCEMENT (ECE-WE)** - Enhances the wage of early childhood educators (ECEs) working in licensed child care facilities by \$2 per hour. Additional funding for statutory benefits is also provided at a rate of 18.73 percent.

**CHILD CARE FEE REDUCTION INITIATIVE (CCFRI)** - Available for licensed child care providers to reduce and stabilize parents’ monthly child care fees. Not available for part-day preschool or school age programs.

**AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE BENEFIT** - Reduces the cost of care for eligible families.

**YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM** - Provides funding for parents under the age of 25 who are finishing high school. Provides up to \$1,500 (per month per

child) to help cover the cost of care at or near the school they are attending.

**ABORIGINAL HEAD START** - Funding has been provided since 2018 to expand Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) programs in BC, resulting in over 600 new, no-fee, licensed child care spaces for Indigenous families throughout the province.

Additional funding is available through:  
**CHILDCARE BC NEW SPACES FUND** - Provided to build or renovate to add new spaces.

**START-UP GRANTS** - Supports unlicensed child care providers to meet the standards to obtain a licence to operate family or in-home multi-age (IHMA) child care.

**CHILDCARE BC MAINTENANCE FUND** - Assists facilities to replace furnishings or equipment to comply with licensing requirements.

Since September 2019, new provincial guidelines have allowed local governments to pair funding programs for up to \$4 million to purchase land for child care centres.<sup>19</sup>

The *School Act* was amended in February 2020 to encourage school boards to directly operate licensed before- and after-school care.<sup>20</sup>

TABLE 3.1 BRITISH COLUMBIA CHILD POPULATION 0 TO 5 YEARS (2019)

Child population 0 to 5 years	274,751
0 to <24 months	87,806
24 months to <5 years	139,312
5 years	47,633
Total population of British Columbia	5,071,336
Children 0 to 5 years as % of total population	5.4%

Statistics Canada. Table 17100005; Formerly Table 051-0001 - Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2019, Canada, provinces and territories (Accessed: May 25, 2020).

TABLE 3.2 BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHER BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD (2019)

	Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child
0 to <24 months	51,200	69.3%
24 months to <5 years	67,200	72.6%
5 years	17,500	76.8%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to 5 years		73%
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to 5 years	135,900	73%

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. 0620\_13 Table 3 - Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates of mothers by age of youngest child, Canada, provinces, territories, annual average, 2019.

TABLE 3.3. BRITISH COLUMBIA ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2019)

Children attending Kindergarten	
5-year-old child population	47,633
% of children attending Kindergarten	98%
StrongStart BC (0 to <5 years)	33,500

Student Headcount by Grade 2017-2018 to 2020-2021. Retrieved from: [https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-student-headcount-by-grade/resource/c1a55945-8554-4058-9019-514b16178f89?inner\\_span=True](https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-schools-student-headcount-by-grade/resource/c1a55945-8554-4058-9019-514b16178f89?inner_span=True)

**TABLE 3.4. BRITISH COLUMBIA LICENSED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Spaces by age group in centre-based programs</b>	
Infants (0 to <36 months)	14,594
36 months to Kindergarten/preschool	56,037
Grade 1 to 12 years	37,813
Multi-age	3,346
<b>Total capacity regulated child care centres</b>	<b>111,790</b>
Family child care/homes	12,720
<b>Total capacity regulated child care</b>	<b>14,594</b>
<b>Facilities by type<sup>b</sup></b>	
Non-profit	1,447
For-profit	1,826

a Includes child care spaces funded through the Child Care Operating Funding Program (CCOF) and the Universal Child Care Prototypes Sites in March 2020. Retrieved August 11, 2020.  
 b From MCFD's Modelling Analysis and Information Management Team.

**TABLE 3.5 BRITISH COLUMBIA PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ECE PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP**

<b>Child Ages</b>	<b>Number of Children<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Child Care<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Kindergarten/ Pre-Kindergarten enrolment</b>	<b>Other ECE Programs</b>	<b>% Children Attending ECE Programs</b>
0 to <24 months	87,806	14,594			17%
24 months to <5 years	139,312	56,037		20,750 <sup>c</sup>	55%
5 years	47,633		46,538		98%

a Statistics Canada. Population Estimates July 1, 2020. Table 17-10-0005-01.  
 b To avoid double counting, it is assumed that 5-year-old children in child care also attend Kindergarten.  
 c Includes estimate of children 24 months to <5 years attending StrongStart and in Aboriginal Head Start programs.

## AFFORDABILITY

Various programs aim to reduce child care costs for families using regulated child care.

The *Affordable Child Care Benefit*<sup>21</sup> is a monthly payment that assists eligible families with a full or partial subsidy depending on factors such as family size, age of children, and type of child care setting. Families earning up to \$111,000 annually (pre-tax) may qualify, depending on family composition.

Parents or guardians who have a child with extra support needs may be eligible for an additional

*Special Needs Supplement* of \$150 per month toward the cost of child care.<sup>22</sup>

Through the *Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* with the Government of Canada, the province invested \$60 million over two years to test new funding models.<sup>23</sup> Over 2,500 existing licensed child care spaces in more than 50 Universal Prototype Sites (PT Sites) have been converted to low-cost spaces. Families pay no more than \$200 a month per child for full-time enrolment. Families who also qualify for the provincial *Affordable Child Care Benefit* may pay less.

The *Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI)*<sup>24</sup> enhances child care affordability by offering funding to eligible, licensed child care providers to reduce and stabilize parents' monthly child care fees. Approved licensed providers receive the following monthly amounts for full-time care, which they are required to pass along to parents in the form of reduced parent fees:

- \$350/month for group infant/toddler care
- \$200/month for family infant/toddler care
- \$100/month for group care for children aged 3 years to Kindergarten
- \$60/month for family care for children aged 3 years to Kindergarten
- Part-time care receives a prorated amount

As of January 2020, 99 percent of facilities that had applied for CCFRI had been approved, impacting approximately 60,000 child care spaces.

## **INCLUSION**

*Special needs support in Kindergarten: Special Education Services: A Manual of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines* (April 2016)<sup>25</sup> outlines children's rights to equitable access to learning and opportunities for achievement.

*Support for children with special needs child care:* MCFD contracts with community agencies through its *Supported Child Development Program (SCD)* to assist families of children with extra support needs to access child care. The program provides resources and training programs for child care staff and parents.<sup>26</sup>

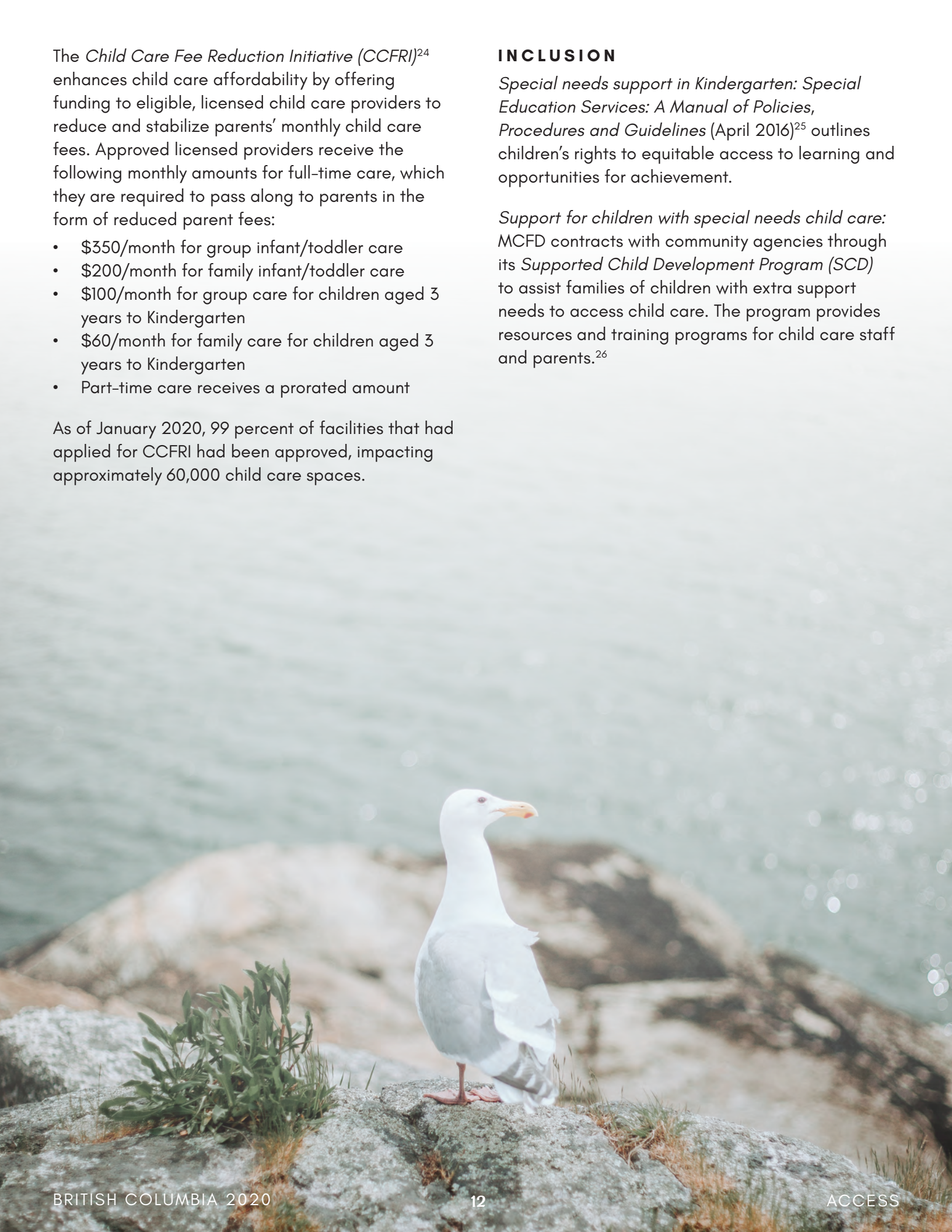




TABLE 4.1 BRITISH COLUMBIA CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	<i>BC's Redesigned Curriculum</i> (September 2018) <sup>a</sup>
Early years programs	<i>The BC Early Learning Framework</i> (updated 2019) <sup>b</sup>

a *BC's Redesigned Curriculum*. Retrieved from: <https://newwestschools.ca/about-us/learner-success/bcs-redesigned-curriculum/>

b *BC Early Learning Framework* (updated 2019). Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/early-learning-framework>

*BC's Redesigned Curriculum* came into effect in September 2018. It is organized around three core competencies: Thinking, personal and social, and communication. Teachers have more flexibility to personalize learning and create engaging environments.

In November 2019, the Ministry of Education updated *The BC Early Learning Framework* after consulting with over 600 early child care and education stakeholders. The revised framework was built using First Nations, Inuit, and Métis principles and inclusive language. Its scope

has been expanded to include children from infancy to 8 years of age (formerly to 5 years of age). Its use is mandatory in StrongStart BC programs and applicable to child care settings, preschools, and other early childhood development and child health programs.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

*Kindergarten class size:* Class sizes may not exceed 20 students. The 2018–2019 average class size was 18.<sup>27</sup>



**TABLE 4.2 BRITISH COLUMBIA STAFF/CHILD AND GROUP SIZE RATIO IN LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	<b>Children per Group</b>	<b>Number of Employees for each Group</b>
Group child care (0 to <36 months)	12 with a separate area designated for each group	≤4	1 infant toddler educator (ITE)
		5-8	1 ITE and 1 early childhood educator (ECE)
		9-12	1 ITE, 1 other ECE educator, and 1 ECE assistant
Group child care (30 months to school age)	25 with not more than 2 children <36 months in a single group	≤8	1 ECE
		9-16	1 ECE and 1 ECE assistant
		17-25	1 ECE and 2 ECE assistants
Preschool (30 months to school age)	20	≤10	1 ECE
		11-20	1 ECE and 1 ECE assistant
Group child care (school age)	24 if any child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1	≤12	1 responsible adult
		13-4	2 responsible adults
	30 if no child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1	≤15	1 responsible adult
		16-30	2 responsible adults
Family child care (if any child is <12 months)	7 with no more than 3 children <48 months; of those 3, no more than 1 child <12 months	≤7	the licensee (min. responsible adult)
Family child care (if no child is <12 months)	7 with no more than 4 children <48 months; of those 4, no more than 2 children <24 months	≤7	the licensee (minimally a responsible adult)
Occasional child care (if any child is <36 months)	16	≤4	1 responsible adult
		5-8	2 responsible adults
		9-12	3 responsible adults
		13-16	4 responsible adults
Occasional child care (if no child is <36 months)	20	≤8	1 responsible adult
		9-16	2 responsible adults
		17-20	3 responsible adults
Multi-age child care if any child is <12 months	8 with no more than 3 children <36 months; of those 3, no more than 1 child <12 months	≤8	1 ECE

**TABLE 4.2 BRITISH COLUMBIA STAFF/CHILD AND GROUP SIZE RATIO IN LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES** (CONTINUED)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Maximum Group Size</b>	<b>Children per Group</b>	<b>Number of Employees for each Group</b>
Multi-age child care if no child is <12 months	8 with no more than 3 children <36 months	≤8	1 ECE
In-home multi-age child care if any child is <12 months	8 with no more than 3 children <36 months; of those 3, no more than 1 child <12 months	≤8	the licensee, who must be certified as an ECE
In-home multi-age child care if no child is <12 months	8 with no more than 3 children <36 months	≤8	the licensee, who must be certified as an ECE
Child-Minding	24 with each child <12 months counted as 2.5 children, each child between 12 and 36 months counted as 2 children, and each child >36 months counted as 1 child	≤8	1 responsible adult
		9-17	2 responsible adults
		18-24	3 responsible adults

*Community Care and Assisted Living Act: Child Care Licensing Regulation.* (Amended, June, 2020). Retrieved from: [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332\\_2007#division\\_d2e3027](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332_2007#division_d2e3027)



## EDUCATORS

**TABLE 4.3 BRITISH COLUMBIA EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Kindergarten Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Completion of a minimum four-year program of post-secondary school professional and academic or specialist studies beyond BC Grade 12 or equivalent, including an acceptable teacher education program.
Early Childhood Educators <sup>b</sup>	<p><b>Early Childhood Educator certificate:</b> Basic ECE education program with a minimum of 902 hours, plus character and competency references, in addition to practicum through a recognized post-secondary educational institution, plus 500 hours of additional work experience.</p> <p><b>Special Needs Educator certificate:</b> Basic ECE certificate plus character and competency references and completion of a recognized Special Needs ECE education program.</p> <p><b>Infant and Toddler Educator certificate:</b> Basic ECE certificate plus character and competency references and completion of a recognized Infant and Toddler Educator education program.</p> <p><b>Early Childhood Educator Assistant certificate:</b> Character references plus one course in a recognized Basic ECE education program in health safety and nutrition, child guidance, or child development.</p>

a Government of British Columbia. BC Teacher's Council. *Certification Standards*. Retrieved from: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/organizational-structure/boards-commissions-tribunals/bc-teachers-council/cert\\_standards.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/organizational-structure/boards-commissions-tribunals/bc-teachers-council/cert_standards.pdf)

b Government of British Columbia. *Child Care Licensing Regulation*. Retrieved from: [http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332\\_2007](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332_2007)

**TABLE 4.4 BRITISH COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT**

	<b>Teachers<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>ECEs<sup>b</sup></b>
<b>Professional Recognition</b>	<p>The Teacher Certification Branch of the Ministry of Education assesses applicants for certification, evaluates teacher education programs, issues teaching certificates, and enforces standards for certificate holders. A minimum of a B.C. Professional Certificate of Qualification is required to teach in public schools.</p> <p>Certification requirements for independent school teachers are set by the Independent School Teaching Certificates Standards Committee under the <i>Independent School Act</i> and administered by the Teacher Certification Branch.</p>	The Early Childhood Educator Registry is responsible for the certification of ECEs, infant toddler educators, special needs educators, and ECE Assistants. The Registry is also responsible for investigating and making decisions about inappropriate standards of practice concerns.
<b>Professional Development</b>	Ongoing professional development is expected as a standard of practice. <sup>28</sup>	40 hours over five years

a British Columbia Teachers' Federation. Teacher certification and salaries in British Columbia. Retrieved from: <https://bctf.ca/OpportunitiesForMembers.aspx?id=16124>

b Government of British Columbia. Renew & Maintain Early Childhood Educator Certification. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/training-and-professional-development/become-an-early-childhood-educator/renew-maintain-ece-certification>



In September 2018, BC launched a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy that includes a wage enhancement and improved access to education and professional development. The strategy is part of a three-year, \$136-million investment to improve the quality of B.C.'s child care system and recognize Early Childhood Educators for their important work.<sup>29</sup>

In February 2019, more bursaries were made available for ECEs as part of the province's Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada.<sup>30</sup> Since 2018, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has invested \$8.66 million to expand recognized ECE programs, funding a total of 1,003 additional student spaces at thirteen public post-secondary institutions.

**TABLE 4.5 BRITISH COLUMBIA DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES**

For centres with children <36 months: One ECE with an infant/toddler specialty plus one other ECE educator and one ECE Assistant for groups of 9-12 children.

One ECE and two ECE Assistants per group of 25 children for full-day child care, and one ECE and two ECE Assistant for a max group of 20 children in half-day preschool.

**TABLE 4.6. BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS AND ECES AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARIES 2019**

<b>Teachers<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Early Childhood Educators<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>ECE Salary as % of Teacher Salary</b>
\$81,663	\$41,848	<b>51%</b>

a Weighted average (each school district counts proportionately to the number of teachers). Category 5. May 2019. Retrieved from: [https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Research/Reports/Cross-Canada\\_teacher\\_salaries.pdf](https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Research/Reports/Cross-Canada_teacher_salaries.pdf)

b Based on median salary of \$38,000, plus \$2/hr wage enhancement delivered on April 1, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/recruitment-retention-strategy>





**PROGRESS REPORT:** *The Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2017-2020* requires the province to publicly report, no later than October 1 of each year of the agreement, on results and expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The report should include the number of children benefiting from subsidies and the number of licensed early learning and child care spaces broken down by age of child and type of setting. The report should show separately the results attributable to the funding provided by Canada under the Agreement. The *BC-Canada Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: Report on Progress and Results Achieved in Year 3 (2019/2020)*<sup>31</sup> is the most recent report.

**PROGRAM STANDARDS:** *Child Care Licensing Regulations* govern child care facilities. Kindergarten classrooms must accommodate the delivery of BC's Redesigned Curriculum.

**POPULATION MONITORING:** The *Early Development Instrument (EDI)* is administered in Kindergarten classrooms on an annual or biannual basis (at the discretion of the school district). The *Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP)* analyzes EDI results and supports communities in interpreting the findings. The most recent online reports are for 2019.<sup>32</sup>





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