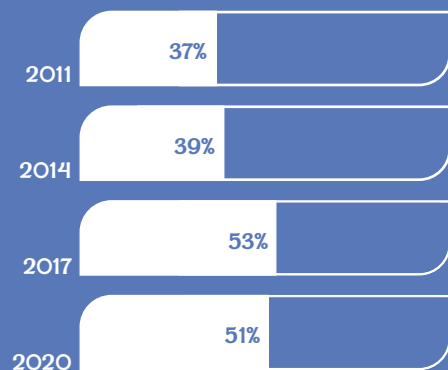


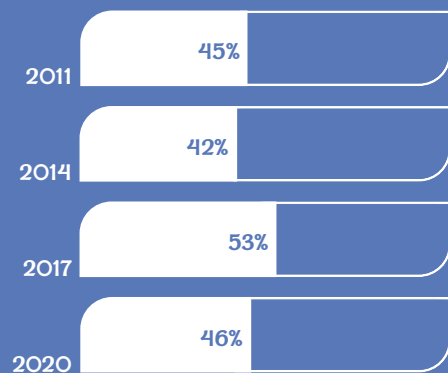
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



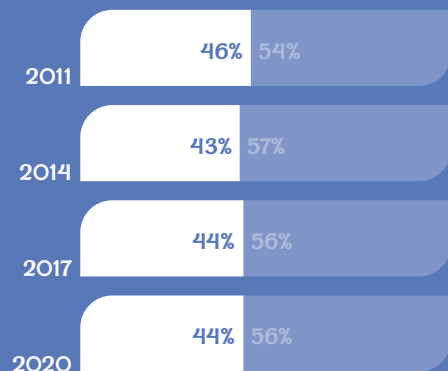
PERCENTAGE OF 2- TO 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ATTENDING ECEC



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES



PERCENTAGE OF ECE SPACES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020

NOVA SCOTIA



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:

Akbari, E., McCuaig, K., & Foster, D. (2021). *The Early Childhood Education Report 2020*. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/ University of Toronto.

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

The Pre-primary Program was fully implemented in September 2020. The 2020-21 Pre-primary budget includes an increase of \$17.5 million, for a total annual investment of \$51.4 million. To improve accessibility of the program, bus service for eligible Pre-primary children began in September 2020, at a cost of \$4 million. In addition, the Nova Scotia Before and After Program is available in some locations to support access to Pre-primary Programs.¹

The new Early Learning and Child Care Act and regulations came into effect in October 2020. These changes support the recommendations in the *Regulated Child Care Review: What We Heard* report and build on the work being done to develop a new regulatory framework that is more efficient and effective in supporting the child care sector. A few highlights of the amendments includes providing authority for inspections of approved family child care homes, modernizing the language to reflect current practices in the field of early learning and child care, new staff to child ratios for mixed ages, and the reduction of some of the administrative burden on licensees by eliminating redundancy in the regulations.

COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

In 2020, COVID-19 became a global pandemic. The government of Nova Scotia closed all licensed child care centres and schools for regular use on March 17, 2020. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's main priority was to support centres during the closure period and cover expenses such as operational and staffing costs, and COVID-related expenses, ensuring ECE and other staff were not laid off. Child care spaces were protected ensuring parents were not paying for a service not used. On June 15, 2020, child care centres and family child care homes re-opened at 50% capacity, with an ability to go to 100% if public health guidelines were able to be met. Health guidelines include grouping siblings when possible, social distancing (including during nap times), a maximum of 15 children per group, cohorting, and not allowing guests into the centres.²

TABLE 1.1 NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Lead Ministry/ Department	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ^a
Related Ministry/ Department	Department of Health and Wellness ^b Department of Community Services ^c
ECE Supervisory Unit	Early Learning and Child Care Branch ^d and Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Branch ^e
Policy Framework	<i>Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!</i> ^f <i>Building Connections: An Early Years Framework for Nova Scotia</i> ^g
Legislation	<i>Day Care Regulations</i> made under Section 15 of the <i>Day Care Act</i> R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 120 O.I.C. 2010-456 (effective April 1, 2011), N.S. Reg. 193/2010 amended to O.I.C. 2018-200 (effective September 1, 2018), N.S. Reg. 137/2018 ^h
Related Legislation	Ministerial Education Act Regulations made under Section 97 of the <i>Education Act</i> S.N.S. 2018, c. 1, Schedule A N.S. Reg. 59/2018 (effective April 1, 2018) amended to N.S. Reg. 186/2018 (effective October 22, 2018) ⁱ <i>Pre-Primary Education Act</i> CHAPTER 44 OF THE ACTS OF 2005 as amended by 2017, c. 14; 2018, c. 1, Sch. A, s. 138 ^j <i>Special Education Act</i> , 2008 ^k <i>Children and Family Services Act</i> 1994-95, c.7, ss. 11-15, 150; 1996, c.10; 1996, c.3, ss 37, 38; 2001, c.3, s.4; 2002, c.5, ss.2, 3; 2005, c.15; 2008; c.12; 2015, c.37 (except s.33(2)) ^l
Local Service Delivery	Pre-Primary and Grade Primary programs delivered through 7 Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial school board (7 English, 1 French) Child care administered through Early Learning and Child Care Branch at Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ^m
Community/ Sector Oversight	Schools and licensed child care facilities are required to have parent committees that vary in their structure ^b Council on Mi'kmaq Education ⁿ Council on African Canadian Education ^o Provincial Early Years Partnership (PEYP) ^g

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/>

b Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Health and Wellness. Retrieved from: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/>

c Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Community Services. Retrieved from: <https://novascotia.ca/coms/>

d Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Early Years Branch. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/>

e Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Branch. Website not available.

f Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!* Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/affordablechildcare.pdf>

g Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Building Connections: An Early Years Framework for Nova Scotia*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/documents/Early%20Years%20Framework%20Document%20-%20EN.pdf>

h Government of Nova Scotia. Registry of Regulations. R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 120 O.I.C. 2010-456 (effective April 1, 2011), N.S. Reg. 193/2010 amended to O.I.C. 2018-200 (effective September 1, 2018), N.S. Reg. 137/2018. Retrieved from: <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/dayregs.htm>

i Government of Nova Scotia. *Education Act*. Retrieved from: <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/edmin.htm>

j Government of Nova Scotia. *Pre-Primary Education Act*. Retrieved from: <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/pre-primary%20education.pdf>

k Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Special Education Policy*. Retrieved from: <https://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/speceng.pdf>

l Government of Nova Scotia. *Children and Family Services Act*. Retrieved from: <http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/children%20and%20family%20services.pdf>

m Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Schools and Regional Centres for Education/CSAP. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/our-schools-regional-centres-education>

n Council on Mi'kmaq Education. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/>

o Council on African Canadian Education. Retrieved from: <https://www.cace.ns.ca/>

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Branch in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is responsible for licensed child care, including licensing and interpretation/application of regulatory requirements, child care subsidy, grants and funding, continuous quality improvement, and professional learning and development for ECEs.

The Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary (ECD/Pp) Branch in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for the delivery of the Pre-Primary Programs, early childhood development research and evaluation, workforce development, and inclusion.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow! was released by the minister of education and early childhood development in June 2016, based on a review of regulated child care in Nova Scotia. The report presents actions, with respective timelines, for supporting regulated child care in the province. It also focuses on concrete ways of providing quality, affordable, and accessible options for families.

Building Connections: An Early Years Framework for Nova Scotia is an integrated framework that establishes guiding principles and areas of focus. It is designed to help guide the collaborative efforts of many partners throughout the province in developing a continuum of programming and services for the early years that begins prenatally and continues through the transition into the elementary school system.³

The first document focuses on regulated child care, while the latter has a broader focus on the development and delivery of early years programs and services in Nova Scotia.

In January 2018, Nova Scotia entered into an *Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* (ELCCA)⁴ with the Government of Canada to receive \$35 million in funding over a period of three years. As per

the agreement, Nova Scotia committed to use this funding to ensure that children from birth to school entry, and their families, have increased access to affordable, high quality, and inclusive early childhood development programs.

SERVICE DESIGN

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAM: The Pre-Primary Program is available to children who turn 4 years of age by December 31. It follows the school day and year calendar and is staffed by two ECEs for a group of 20 children. Where there are more than 20 children to a maximum of 24, a third staff is added. Attendance is voluntary and flexible.⁵ *Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework*⁶ is the overall guide for programming.

NOVA SCOTIA BEFORE AND AFTER PROGRAM: The Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP) is delivered by licensed child care and recognized community-based recreation providers who follow Program and Delivery Standards that emphasize outdoor play, movement and physical literacy. The programs are offered on-site in schools. Subsidy is available to eligible families with children registered in the NS-BAP.

NS-BAP was piloted in 8 locations in January 2018 and expanded to 35 sites in 2019-20.

GRADE PRIMARY (KINDERGARTEN): Grade Primary is full day, mandatory, and part of the public-school program. Enrolment is open to children who turn 5 years of age by December 31, however parents may choose to enrol their child the following year.⁷

SCHOOLSPLUS: SchoolsPlus is a model of integrated service delivery available in every school in NS that provides wraparound supports for students and families through liaisons who advocate, coordinate, and help families and students navigate systems to get the services they need. The services provided at each school respect and address the unique needs of the community and may include parenting programs and supports, recreational and arts activities, food security, and various SEL group programs.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Licensed child care is available for children from birth up to and including age 12 years. Commercial and non-profit operators must follow the *Day Care Act and Regulations* and are inspected and monitored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

CENTRE-BASED: Centre-based child care refers to care provided in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for seven or more children from birth to age 12 years. This includes full-day centres, part-day centres (fewer than 4 hours per day/30 hours per week), and school-age care.⁸

FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE: Family home child care is offered in the provider's home under the supervision of a licensed family home child care agency. Family home child care agencies are licensed and funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Individual family home child care providers are not licensed but are approved by the agency under provincial regulation. Agencies are licensed under the authority of the *Day Care Act and Regulations* to approve, manage, and monitor the care providers in their homes.⁹ Amendments to the *Day Care Act* that came into effect October 2020, gave the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development increased authority over inspections conducted by family child care agencies.¹⁰

EARLY YEARS CENTRES (EYCS): There are eight EYCs located in public schools in NS. The EYC model consists of three core components: family supports (which may include health services and early identification/intervention); regulated child care; and an early learning program for 4-year-olds. The centres are based on partnerships between the regional centres for education and community programs.¹¹ With the introduction of Pre-Primary, the early learning program for 4-year-olds transitioned into the Pre-Primary Program in September 2017.

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed child care arrangements are made privately between parents and providers. Providers may care for six children of any age or eight school-aged children, including the person's own children, without a licence.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not regulate these providers.¹²

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Seven regional centres of education and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial oversee the Pre-Primary Program and Primary Program, as well as the EYCs. Pre-Primary Consultants provide support to the Pre-Primary Program.¹³

In regulated child care, family home child care agencies have consultants that support family home child care providers. EECD's Early Childhood Development Consultants (ECDCs) provide support to licensed child care facilities and family home child care agencies. They consult with applicants seeking to operate licensed child care facilities, in addition to their other mandatory responsibilities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ OVERSIGHT

Licensed child care programs are required to have parent committees that are accessible to parents of all enrolled children. These committees meet twice a year to discuss the program operations.

All schools have school advisory councils that include community members.

The Council on Mi'kmaq Education is the advisory group to the minister of education on Mi'kmaq educational issues.¹⁴

The Council on African Canadian Education is a provincial advisory council with a mandate to provide advice and guidance to the minister of education with respect to educational programs and services for African Nova Scotian learners.¹⁵

An Early Childhood Educators Working Group (ECEWG) was formed in November 2019, to give ECEs opportunities to directly engage in discussions in relation to their work in regulated child care. The final report¹⁶ includes ideas or considerations for change with respect to wages and benefits, distinction of training and experience, and recruitment and retention of educators.

TABLE 2.1 NOVA SCOTIA ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020^a

Child care fee subsidies	\$20,588,242
Other regulated child care grants	\$38,599,779
Operating funds (including wage, training, quality)	\$2,608,063
Federal funding through bilateral agreement ^b	\$11,691,094
Total regulated child care	\$73,487,178

a Government of Nova Scotia. *Budget 2019-2020. Estimates and Supplementary Detail*. Retrieved from: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/7-1690/budget-2019-20-estimates-and-supplementary-detail.pdf>

b Government of Canada. *Canada - Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2017-2020* (amount for 2019-2020 included). Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/nova-scotia-2017.html>

Personal communication. Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. August 21, 2020. Number adjusted to actuals.

TABLE 2.2 NOVA SCOTIA ALLOCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

Pre-Primary ^a	\$35,232,461
Grade Primary (kindergarten) ^a	\$102,479,685
Regulated child care ^a	\$73,487,178
Other ECE spending ^a	\$9,283,288
Total ECEC spending^a	\$220,482,612
Total provincial spending budget estimate ^b	\$11,144,052,000
ECEC as a % of provincial budget	2%

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Healthy Beginnings program and ECDIS funding. Does not include federal funding to Aboriginal communities through Inuit, Métis and First Nations agreements.

b Government of Nova Scotia. *Budget 2019-2020. Estimates and Supplementary Detail*. Retrieved from: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/7-1690/budget-2019-20-estimates-and-supplementary-detail.pdf>

TABLE 3.1 NOVA SCOTIA CHILD POPULATION 0 TO 5 YEARS (2019)

Child population 0 to 5 years	51,996
0 to <24 months	16,925
24 months to <5 years	26,295
5 years	8,776
Total population of Nova Scotia	971,395
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 NOVA SCOTIA LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF MOTHERS 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	10,200	67.1%
24 months to <5 years	12,800	72.7%
5 years	4,100	80.4%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to 5 years	27,100	
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to 5 years		71.5%

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 NOVA SCOTIA ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2019-2020)^a

Children attending 4-year-old Pre-Primary ^b	4,618
4-year-old child population ^c	8,850
% of children attending Pre-Primary	52%
Children attending 5-year-old Primary (Kindergarten)	8,715
5-year-old child population	8,776
% of children attending Primary (Kindergarten)	99.3%

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 2019-2020. Enrolments by Grade and Gender for 2020-2021 available at: <https://stats-summary.ednet.ns.ca/by-grade-gender>

b Pre-Primary was available in 205 of 253 schools in 2019-2020, Approximately 75% of eligible children attended out of an eligible school catchment population of approximately 6,150 children.

c Statistics Canada. Population Estimates July 1, 2020. Table 17-10-0005-01 (accessed on April 30, 2020)

TABLE 3.4 NOVA SCOTIA REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020^a

Spaces by age group^b	
Infants (0 to <18 months)	995
Toddlers (18 to <36 months)	4,435
Preschool-aged (36 months to <5 years)	7,427
School-aged (5 to <13 years)	4,093
Total capacity regulated child care centres	16,950
Family child care ^{b,c}	282
Total capacity regulated child care	17,232
Facilities by type	
Centre-based programs	347
Family child care agencies	13
Family child care providers	217
Spaces by auspice	
Non-profit	7,462
For-profit	9,487

a The Nova Scotia government does not license First Nations, Inuit, and Métis child care programs. Funding for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis child care programs is provided by the federal government. Health Canada, *First Nations Head Start Standards Guide*.

b Personal communication. Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. August 21, 2020.

c There are 1,128 children (ages 0-12) accessing spaces in 197 Approved Family Home Child Care Programs in Nova Scotia. As they are all multi-age group settings, age breakdowns are not available. This number provided is an estimate.

TABLE 3.5 NOVA SCOTIA PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ECE PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP

Child Ages	Number of Children ^a	Child Care/Preschool ^b	Grade Primary/ Pre-Primary ^c	Other ECE Programs ^d	% Children Attending ECE Programs
0 to <24 months	16,925	2,663			15.7%
24 months to <5 years	26,295	8,427	4,618	326	51%
5 years	8,776		8,715		99.3%

a Statistics Canada. Population Estimates July 1, 2020. Table 17-10-0005-01.

b Participation is estimated. Child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report. To avoid double counting, the percentage of 4-year-olds attending Pre-Primary is deducted from the child care count. Please see methodology for calculation details.

c Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 2019-2020. Enrolments by Grade and Gender for 2020-2021 available at: <https://stats-summary.ednet.ns.ca/by-grade-gender>. It is assumed that children attending child care also attend kindergarten.

d Estimate based on attendance at one Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program and 13 Aboriginal Head Start programs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. See methodology for detailed calculation. Retrieved from: <http://www.unbi.org/aboriginal-headstart-on-reserve-ahsor>

The Pre-Primary Program is a universal child-centered, play-based program for the year before the children start school. It is staffed by early childhood educators.¹⁷ Pre-Primary was made available in all school communities in the 2020-

2021 school year.¹⁸ A total of 630 early childhood educators were employed in the Pre-Primary Program in 2019-2020.¹⁹ An additional 250 ECEs were added at full implementation.

AFFORDABILITY

TABLE 3.6 NOVA SCOTIA CHILD CARE SUBSIDY – INCOME ELIGIBILITY^a

Eligibility		Maximum Subsidy	Sliding Scale
Net Income		\$0-\$35,000	\$35,000-\$70,000
Nova Scotia Daily Subsidy Rates ^b			
New Maximum Daily Subsidy		Average Daily Child Care Fee (2019/2020)	Average Co-pay for Parents Eligible for Maximum Subsidy
Infant	\$29	\$42	\$10
Toddler	\$24	\$35	\$10
Preschool	\$23	\$36	\$10

- ^a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Child Care Subsidy – Income Eligibility*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/families/incomeeligibility.shtml>. Effective July 1, 2019, changes to the Nova Scotia Child Care Subsidy Program included removal of child support payments from the income threshold, allowing single parents to access an increased amount of subsidy; ensuring all eligible families can access subsidy regardless of employment status or access to education opportunities; removal of the 18-month application wait time for temporary residents so that newcomers are eligible to apply for a subsidy upon arrival; inclusion of all income and financial sources in the eligibility assessment for temporary residents, expanding the subsidy so it covers extended hours care for up to 18 hours in a single day.
- ^b Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Child Care Subsidy*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/families/childcaresubsidy.shtml>. The daily subsidy rate varies depending on total family income and number of dependents within the family. If the daily subsidy rate is calculated at less than \$1 per day, the applicant is not eligible for subsidy.

Nova Scotia tracks parental fees for regulated child care facilities that receive provincial funding. Parental fees range depending on the community. A 2019 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

report²⁰ outlines monthly child care fees in Halifax. Median monthly fees for infants (\$930) and toddlers (\$820) fall at the mid-point among other Canadian cities.

INCLUSION

The province's *Inclusive Education Policy* objective is designed to ensure that every student has access to an equitable and high-quality education that is culturally and linguistically responsive, accepting, and respectful in supporting and valuing their learning and diverse abilities.²¹

Nova Scotia's Early Childhood Development Intervention Services (ECDIS) is fully funded by EECD to provide province-wide specialized services to families of young children (birth to school entry), who either have a biological risk for or a diagnosis of developmental delay.

The program served 2,983 children and families in 2019-20 through the provision of services including home visiting, community consultation, case coordination, transition support, playgroups, and workshop facilitation. Early Childhood

Development Intervention Services are offered in 8 regions across the province within 28 locations.

In 2018, NS began the implementation of the Pyramid Model (PM) in regulated child care. The Pyramid Model is an evidence-based, positive behavior support framework for early childhood educators to promote social emotional development. The PM framework focuses on establishing the environments and building relationships required to intentionally teach children social emotional skills that will promote well-being, success in school and life. The Pyramid Model implementation began in 22 child care centres across the province in Fall 2018, and a second cohort of Pyramid Model was introduced in 33 Pre-primary Program sites throughout NS in October 2019.²²

TABLE 4.1 NOVA SCOTIA CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

Program	Framework Document
Early years programs/child care	<i>Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework</i> ^a
Pre-Primary	<i>Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework</i> ^a
Grade Primary	<i>Learning Outcomes Framework, Grades Primary-6</i> ^b

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/nselearningcurriculumframework.pdf>. Introduced in 2018, the curriculum framework is Nova Scotia's first early learning guide. It is designed to support pedagogical leaders and ECEs with a focus on programs for children from infancy up to and including 8 years of age.

b Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Primary*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/curriculum/P-6LOFs-Oct1-2015.pdf>

WORK ENVIRONMENT

TABLE 4.2 NOVA SCOTIA STAFF/CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE IN REGULATED CHILD CARE

Age	Staff: Child Ratios	Max. Group Size
FULL-DAY PROGRAM		
Infant (0-17 months)	1:4	10
Toddler (18-35 months)	1:6	18
Pre-schooler (36 months-5 years)	1:8	24
Mixed Ages	Ratio applies to youngest child	Maximum group size applying to youngest child
PART-DAY PROGRAM		
Toddler older than 30 months	1:12	24
Pre-schooler	1:12	24
SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM		
School-age only	1:15	30
School-age and fewer than 8 pre-primary children	1:15	30
School-age and 8 pre-primary children	1:12	30
Pre-primary children only	1:12	30
FAMILY HOME DAY CARE PROGRAM		
Any age	1:7	7
Infants	1:3	3
School-age only	1:9	9

Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Licensee's Manual for Regulated Child Care Settings*. Retrieved from: https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/documents/ccmanual/A-Main_Regs_Section.pdf

CHILD CARE: No more than 24 children are allowed in a room or “specified play area” at one time.²³

PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAM: Two ECEs are required for 20 children, to a maximum of 24. If there are more than 20 children, one additional support staff is required.

GRADE PRIMARY: The target class size for Grade Primary (kindergarten) is 20 with up to 22 as the hard cap.²⁴

EDUCATORS

TABLE 4.3 NOVA SCOTIA EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Grade Primary (Kindergarten) Teachers ^a	Four levels of classifications are available, with a minimum of 3 years of approved undergraduate studies plus a minimum of two years of an approved program of professional studies and receipt of an approved bachelor’s degree from a recognized university.
Early Childhood Educators in Pre-Primary Program ^b	Completion of a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education (Lead ECE) or approved college program in early childhood education is required. Additional support staff may have a combination of course work and experience.
Early Childhood Educators in Licensed Child Care ^c	<p>Entry Level – completion of the Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities^c</p> <p>Level 1 Classification – completion of orientation for child care staff and Level 1 course work and guided workplace experience</p> <p>Level 2 Classification – completion of an approved college program in early childhood education</p> <p>Level 3 Classification – completion of a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or completion of Level 2 requirements and a bachelor’s degree</p> <p>School Age Approval – completion of orientation training and a bachelor’s degree that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children</p>

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Office of Teacher Certification. Retrieved from: <https://certification.ednet.ns.ca/initial-teacher-certification>

b Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Classification for Child Care Staff. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/ClassificationforStaff.shtml>

c Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/OrientationforStaff.shtml>

TABLE 4.4 NOVA SCOTIA PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

	Teachers	ECEs
Professional Recognition	Nova Scotia Teachers' Certificate Teachers Certification Office, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ^a	Child Care Classification for staff working in licensed child care administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ^b
Professional Development	Teachers must complete a minimum of 100 hours of professional development over 5 years and submit a report of the PD activities to their employing school board for inclusion in their personal files by September 30 of each year ^{c,d}	Minimum of 30 hours every 3 years to maintain classification ^d

a Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Office of Teacher Certification. Retrieved from: <https://certification.ednet.ns.ca/initial-teacher-certification>

b Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Classification for Child Care Staff. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/ClassificationforStaff.shtml>

c Nova Scotia Teacher's Union. Retrieved from: <https://nstu.ca/nstu-members/professional-development/certification-upgrading/professional-development-profiles>

d Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Links to Professional Development Programs. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/ProfessionalDevelopment.shtml>

TABLE 4.5 NOVA SCOTIA DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES

Two-thirds of staff working directly with children in a licensed child care facility must have a Level 1, 2, or 3 classification. Two-thirds of staff working directly in a school-age program must have a level 1, 2, 3 or school-age approval.

Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Classification for Child Care Staff. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/ClassificationforStaff.shtml>

TABLE 4.6 NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS AND ECES ANNUAL SALARIES 2019

Teachers	Early Childhood Educators	ECE Salary as % of Teachers Salary
\$73,828	\$34,196	46%

Personal Communication. Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. August 21, 2020.

PROGRESS REPORT: *The Canada–Nova Scotia 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, 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 most recent report is the *Accountability Report 2019–2020*²⁵, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

PROGRAM STANDARDS: *Quality Matters*, introduced in 2018, is a provincial quality

improvement program for regulated child care centres. Every child care centre that receives provincial funding must participate in this initiative to raise and maintain the quality of early childhood education and care.²⁶ The Early Learning and Child Care Branch operates a Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities²⁷ that includes a public record of compliance. Facility program standards are not available for Pre-Primary and Primary Grade.

POPULATION MONITORING: *The Early Development Instrument (EDI)*²⁸ was first administered in 2012–2013, with data collected on primary-aged children in all Nova Scotia schools. Further EDI collections occurred in 2014–2015, 2017–2018, and most recently in 2019–2020 (results pending).²⁹



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- 9 Government of Nova Scotia. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. *Family Home Day Care Programs*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers/FamilyHomeDayCarePrograms.shtml>
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- 17 Ibid. 7.
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