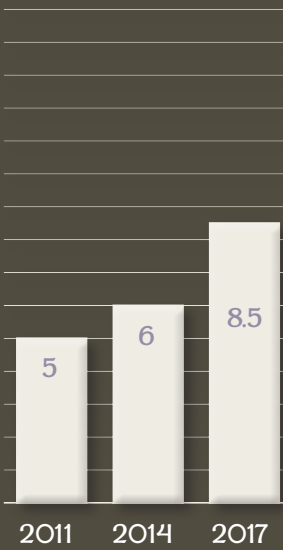


NOVA SCOTIA PROFILE 2017

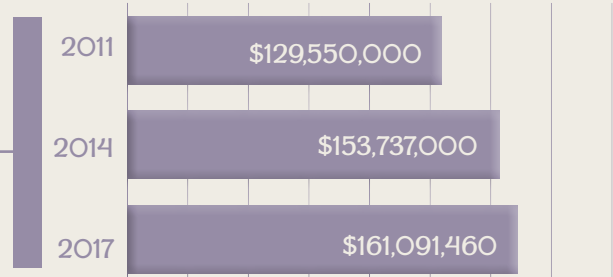


TRENDS IN ECEC FROM 2011-2017

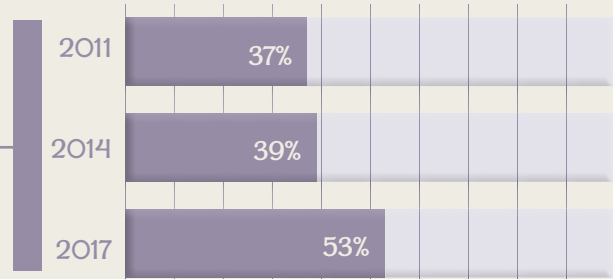
ECE REPORT BENCHMARKS



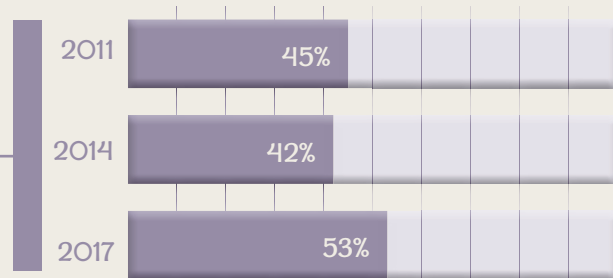
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



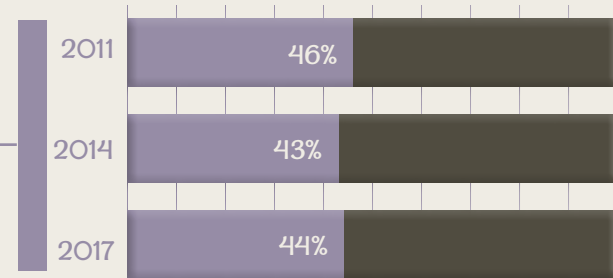
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN 2-4 YEARS
ATTENDING ECEC



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF
TEACHER SALARIES



PERCENTAGE OF SPACES
(NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



1. GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1 Nova Scotia Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education	
Lead Ministry/Department	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Related Ministry/Department	Department of Health and Wellness Department of Community Services
Policy Framework	<i>Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow!</i> ¹
Common ECE Supervisory Unit	The Early Years Branch
Legislation	<i>Day Care Act</i> , Chapter 120, S.1, of the Revised Statutes, 1989 ² <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 (December 20, 2010, effective April 1, 2011), N.S. Reg. 193/2010 as amended to O.I.C. 2017-57 (March 14, 2017), N.S. Reg. 36/201 ³
Related Legislation	<i>Education Act and Regulation</i> (1995–96, amended 1998, 2000, 2002), consolidated 2013, ss. 25-27; 2014, c. 13; 2015, c. 16 ⁴ <i>Pre-Primary Education Act</i> , 2005 ⁵ <i>Special Education Act</i> , 2008 ⁶ <i>Children and Family Services Act</i> 1994–95, c. 7, ss. 11-15, 15O; 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)) ⁷ <i>Children and Family Services Regulations</i> Section 99 of the <i>Children and Family Services Act</i> S.N.S. 1990, c. 5 O.I.C. 2016-311 (December 23, 2016, effective March 1, 2017), N.S. Reg. 265/2016 ⁸
Local Service Delivery	Pre-primary ^a and Grade Primary programs delivered through 8 school boards (7 English, 1 French) ⁹ Child care administered through Early Years Branch at Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. ¹⁰
Community/Sector Oversight	Schools and licensed child care programs are required to have parent committees. Council on Mi'kmaq Education Council on African Canadian Education

a Pre-primary was put in place as of September 2017.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Beginning in September 2017, fifty-two pre-primary programs were available in 45 public schools, the first in a four-year province-wide roll out of universal pre-primary education for 4-year-olds.¹¹ Pre-primary was piloted as part of the Early Years Centres initiative. One centre in each school district was designed to offer a play-based early learning program for children in the year before entering school, along with family supports and resources and regulated child care. The second evaluation of the initiative was released in February 2017.¹²

The criteria for child care subsidy were adjusted as of July 1, 2016, increasing the number of families eligible for full subsidy by raising the maximum annual family earnings to \$25,000.¹³

As of October 2015, Early Intervention Programs were re-organized into one coordinated program. This change will help improve consistency of services across the province, improve access to early intervention services for underserved populations and reduce wait times for families.¹⁴

In October 2016, a wage floor was introduced for regulated child care centres receiving provincial grant funding. This innovative program provides funding to pay early childhood educators based on a wage floor ranging from \$15 to \$19 per hour, depending on the level of training.¹⁵

Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow! (June 2016) is a five-year plan to address the concerns identified in the province's public review of regulated child care. The plan includes expanding subsidy eligibility, improving wages for early childhood educators, introducing an early years curriculum, implementing a new funding model, and increasing training requirements and opportunities for training and professional development.¹⁶

The *Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework* is being used in pre-primary programs and is being further piloted in regulated child care centres and Early Years Centres across Nova Scotia. With a focus on children from birth to 8 years of age, the Framework informs educators' expectations of children and engages educators in critical thought and reflective practice. The Framework outlines the context within which such learning and development take place. Its purpose is to guide educators across Nova Scotia as they extend and enrich children's development, learning and care.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Early Years Branch in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development oversees the divisions of early childhood development services, Early Years Centres and licensing. It is responsible for the development of early years legislation, regulations and standards for licensed child care facilities and family home day care programs; administration of grant funding; and administration of the child care subsidy program, studies and online learning.

Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) is responsible for the development of legislation, regulations and standards for licensed child care facilities and family home day care agencies; the administration of grant funding; program consultation for regulated child care programs; the administration of Child Care Staff Classification Services; and the administration of the Child Care Subsidy program.¹⁷

Early childhood development consultants (ECDCs) located in five regional offices across the province provide program and policy support to licensed child care facilities and family home day care agencies and consult with applicants seeking to operate licensed child care facilities. Additional ECDCs have been hired to support the new pre-primary program.

The Early Years Branch is responsible for the implementation of full-day pre-primary programs for 4-year-olds.¹⁸

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Affordable, Quality Child Care: A Great Place to Grow! (June 2016) is a five-year plan to improve child care services.¹⁹

SERVICE DESIGN

Education Programs

Grade Primary (Kindergarten): This full-time, school year program is open to children who turn 5 years of age in the year they begin grade primary. Grade primary is part of mandatory schooling. Parents of children born before December 31 have the option of waiting to enrol their child until the following year.

SchoolsPlus: This program operates in all eight school boards and offers integrated family resource and child care programming, as well as youth health centres. A total of 213 schools across the province participate.²⁰

Regulated Child Care

Licensed child care is available for children from birth to age 12. To be licensed, operators must follow the *Day Care Act* and *Regulations* and are inspected and monitored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Group child care is offered in centres and includes full-time, part-time (fewer than 4 hours per day/30 hours per week) and school-age care.

Family home day care is child care offered in the provider's home under the supervision of a licensed family home day care agency. Agencies are licensed and funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to approve, manage and monitor the care providers in their homes.

Unregulated Child Care

Individuals may look after up to six children of any age or eight school-aged children without a licence. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not regulate these providers. Unlicensed child care arrangements are made privately between the parents and the provider.

Child/Family Services

Pre-Primary: This full-time, school year program is for children who turn 4 years of age in the year they attend. The program is taught by a team of two early childhood educators. Attendance is optional.

Family Resource Programs are available through 27 sites offering parent education, family support and early literacy programs.²¹

Early Years Centres (EYCs) are located within public schools. Each EYC offers at a minimum, 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 school board and community programs. With the introduction of universal pre-primary, the early learning programs for 4-year-olds transitioned into pre-pre-primary programs in September 2017. The EYC model is a partnership with the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation, which provided start-up and evaluation support.²² There are eight Early Years Centres in the province, one in each school district.²³

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Eight school boards oversee pre-primary and primary programs and Early Years Centres.

Early childhood development consultants (ECDCs) provide support to licensed child care facilities, family home day care agencies and the new pre-primary program. They consult with applicants seeking to operate licensed child care facilities.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OVERSIGHT

Licensed child care programs are required to have parent committees that meet at least once a year to discuss the operation of the program.

All schools have 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.²⁴

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.²⁵

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Nova Scotia Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care to March 31, 2017 ²⁶	
Child care fee subsidies	\$20,775,164
Other regulated child care grants	\$30,041,542
Operating funds (includes wage, training, quality)	\$2,158,271
Total regulated child care	\$52,974,977

Table 2.2 Nova Scotia Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care to March 31, 2017

Grade primary (kindergarten) ^a	\$96,243,750
Regulated child care	\$52,974,977
Other ECE spending	\$11,872,733
Total ECEC spending	\$161,091,460
Total provincial spending budget estimate	\$10,145,614,000
ECEC as a percent of provincial budget	1.6%

a 8,555 primary enrolment (2016) × \$11,250/student based on EECD 2016–17 funding model.²⁷

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Nova Scotia Child Population Birth–5 Years (2016)

Child population 0–5 years	52,720
0–1 year	17,387
2–4 years	26,489
5 years	8,844
Total population of Nova Scotia ^a	949,501
Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population	5.5%

a Table O51-0001 Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories.

Table 3.2 Nova Scotia Labour Force Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2016)

	Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child ^a	Labour force participation rate of mothers by age of youngest child ^b
0–1 year	9,800	71.25%
2–4 years	11,700	80.5%
5 years	4,400	83.9%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0–5 years	25,900	
Average labour force participation rate of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years		77.4%

a Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O717_04 Table 1.ivt.

b Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_29 Table 1.ivt.

Table 3.3 Nova Scotia ECE School Programs (2016)

Children attending 5-year-old primary (kindergarten) ^a	8,555
5-year-old child population	8,844
% of children attending kindergarten	97%

a Enrolment for 2016.²⁸ Children born before December 31 have the option of delaying enrolment to the following year.

Table 3.4 Nova Scotia Licensed Child Care Programs to March 31, 2017

Spaces by age group in centre-based programs	
Infants (0-17 months)	863
Toddlers (18-35 months)	3,913
Preschool-aged (36 months-5 years)	8,427
School-aged (5-12 years)	4,007
Total spaces centre-based programs	17,210
Family child care/home and group	1,645
Total capacity regulated child care	18,855
Facilities by type	
Centre-based programs	384 ²⁹
Family child care providers	235
Spaces by auspice	
Non-profit	8,424
For-profit	10,721

Table 3.5 Nova Scotia Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group

Child Ages	Number of Children ^a	Child Care/preschool	Grade primary/Pre-primary ^b	Other ECE Programs ^c	% Children Attending ECEC Program
0-1 year	17,387	863			5%
Preschool	26,489	12,340 ^d	1,310	326	53%
5 years	8,844		8,555		97%

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

b 716 pre-primary enrolment;³⁰ 414 Grandir en Français;³¹ 180 early years centre spaces;³² pre-primary was not in place until September 2017

c Estimate based on attendance at one Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities program³³ and 13 Aboriginal Head Start programs in First Nations communities.³⁴

d Includes 18 months - 5years

AFFORDABILITY

Table 3.6 Nova Scotia Child Care Subsidy – Income Eligibility³⁵

Net Income ^a	\$0-\$25,000	\$25,001-\$70,000
Eligibility ^b	Maximum Subsidy	Sliding Scale

a The daily subsidy rate varies depending on total family income and number of dependents within the family.

b If the daily subsidy rate is calculated at less than \$1.00 per day, the applicant is not eligible for subsidy.

Table 3.7 Nova Scotia Daily Subsidy Rate

	New Maximum Daily Subsidy	Average Daily Child Care Fee (2014/2015)	Parents Eligible for Maximum Subsidy Will Pay Average
Infant	\$29	\$39	\$10
Toddler	\$24	\$34	\$10
Preschool	\$23	\$33	\$10

As of March 31, 2016, an average of 3,357 families and 5,000 children were receiving subsidies.³⁶

INCLUSION

Special Education Policy (2008) emphasizes inclusivity beginning in primary school.³⁷ *Transition Planning for Students with Special Needs: The Early Years Through to Adult Life* (rev. 2005) supports stakeholders as students enter, move through and leave the school system.³⁸

Supported Child Care Program (SCC) is a grant-based program that provides funding to licensed child care facilities to support inclusive programming, including additional staffing, materials and resources, and/or training/professional development for staff.³⁹

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Nova Scotia Curriculum Frameworks

Program	Framework Documents
Grade primary (kindergarten)	<i>Learning Outcomes Framework, Grades Primary-6</i> (rev. October 1, 2015), <i>Streamlined Curriculum P-3</i>
Pre-primary	<i>Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework</i>
Early years programs/child care	<i>Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework</i> (pilot phase) ⁴⁰

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Grade primary class size: Nova Scotia has targeted class sizes rather than hard class caps; 34.5 percent of classes are above the caps in elementary schools.⁴¹ The target class size for grade primary (kindergarten) is 20 with flexibility.

Pre-primary: One ECE is required for every 10 children with a maximum group size of 24. Once the group is over 20, an additional support staff must be hired.

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

EDUCATORS

Table 4.2 Nova Scotia Group Size and Staff/Child Ratio in Licensed Child Care Centres ⁴²		
Age	Staff:Child Ratio	Class Size
Full-Day Program		
Infants (0-17 months)	1:4	10
Toddlers (18-35 months)	1:6	18
Preschool (36 months-5 years)	1:8	24
Part-Day Program		
Toddler > 30 months	1:12	24
Preschool	1:12	24
Mixed age groups (two or more age ranges)	Staff:child ratio and maximum group size applicable for age range of the youngest child	
Family Home Day Care Program	Maximum number of children	
Any age ^a	1:7	7
Infants	1:3	3
School age	1:9	9

a Subject to the requirements that a group of children in a family home day care program include no more than two infants and three toddlers.

Table 4.3 Nova Scotia Educator Qualifications	
Kindergarten Teachers ⁴³	Four levels of classifications are available, with a minimum of three 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 ⁴⁴	Level 3 Classification: Completion of a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or completion of Level 2 requirements and a bachelor's degree.
	Level 2 Classification: Completion of an approved college program in early childhood education.
	Level 1 Classification: Completion of orientation for child care staff as well as completion of post-secondary coursework in three subject areas: child development, behaviour guidance and curriculum and programming for young children. Must also complete two guided workplace experiences, which involve work experience in a licensed child care facility, advised by a supervisor from a training institute and supported by an early childhood contact staff in the workplace.

continued on next page

Table 4.3 Nova Scotia Educator Qualifications

Early Childhood Educators⁴⁴	<p>School Age Approval: Completion of orientation training and a post-secondary credential that qualifies a person to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate programming for school-age children.</p> <p>Entry level: Completion of orientation for staff working in licensed child care facilities.</p>
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Table 4.4 Nova Scotia Professional Recognition and Development

	Qualified Teachers⁴⁵	Qualified ECEs
Professional Requirement	Nova Scotia Teachers Certificate Teachers Certification Office, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Child Care Classification administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Professional Development	100 hours every 5 years ⁴⁶	Minimum 30 hours every 3 years to maintain classification ⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸

Table 4.6 Nova Scotia Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries

Teachers^a	Early Childhood Educators^b	ECE salary as % of Teachers Salary
\$62,758	\$33,384	53%

a Equivalent to TC 5, Year 5, Schedule D2, August 1, 2016–July 31, 2017.⁴⁹

b Based on FTE average hourly rate of \$16.05. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation O517_31 Table1.ivt.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Report: *Accountability Report 2015–2016*, Department of Education and Early Childhood Education.⁵⁰

Program Standards: The Early Years Branch operates a Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities that includes compliance records.⁵¹ Facility program standards are not available for pre-primary and grade programs.

Population Monitoring: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) was first administered to primary grade children in the 2012–13 school year, and again in 2014–15.⁵² Data collection is planned for 2017.

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