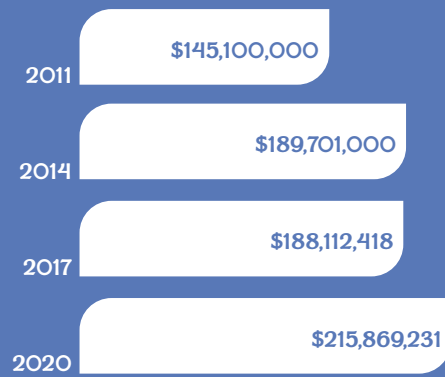
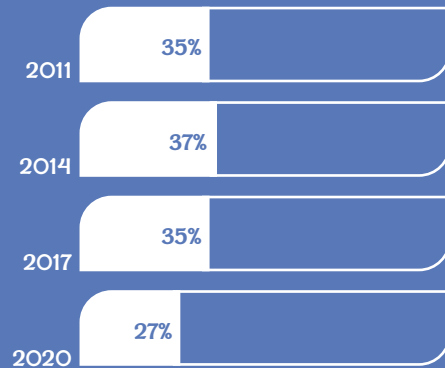


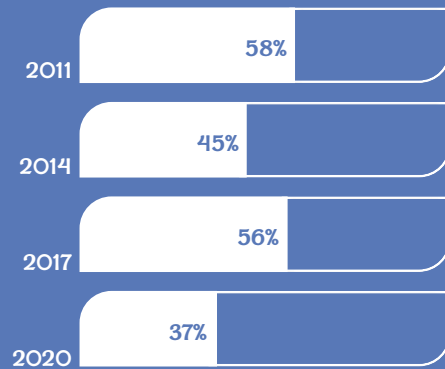
CHANGE IN ECEC SPENDING



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



ECE SALARIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TEACHER SALARIES

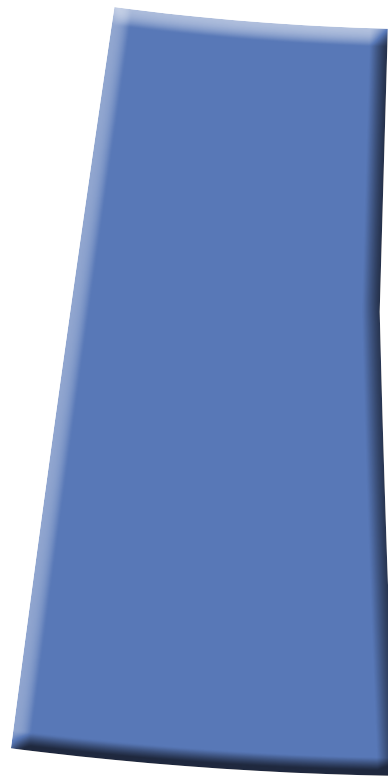


PERCENTAGE OF FACILITIES (NON-PROFIT/PROFIT)



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT 2020

SASKATCHEWAN



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

In March 2021, the federal and provincial government agreed to a one-year extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, which allocates approximately \$13.6 million in 2020-2021 for early learning and child care. New funding will support licensed child care programs for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and uphold the initiatives outlined in the first three-year agreement.¹

COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, school-based child care facilities and classes in Saskatchewan Prekindergarten to Grade 12 schools were suspended, effective March 20, 2020, until the new school year.⁴ Some child care facilities in schools remained opened to provide child care for essential workers⁵; this service was later extended to include all working parents.⁶ Group sizes were limited to a maximum of eight in non-school-based child care centres and homes.⁷

Saskatchewan's pandemic response also included additional supports for families, essential workers, and child care operators. Families receiving part-time benefits through the pre-existing Child Care Subsidy were granted full-time benefits, retroactive to March 1, 2020.⁸ Child care workers who earned less than \$2,500 per a month and were employed at a licensed child care centre received a cost-shared \$400 per month temporary wage supplement, ending

The Ministry of Education released the *Annual Report for 2019-20*,² outlining the province's plan for early learning and child care services. The report highlights key priorities including enhancing inclusion opportunities for children experiencing disabilities, increasing access to licensed child care, and improving the quality of child care and early learning environments.

In November 2020, the province committed to adding 750 new child care spaces over the next four years.³

July 4, 2020.⁹ To support licensed child care operators, the Ministry of Education continued to provide operating grants to all centres, with additional grant funding available to designated centres providing child care to those working or returning to work.¹⁰

On August 4, 2020, the government of Saskatchewan released its safety plan for Prekindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan included additional public health measures to protect students and staff.¹¹

In December 2020, the provincial and federal governments committed to nearly \$2 million in funding for licensed child care centres and family child care homes through the Federal Safe Start Agreement. The funding supported safety for children and staff by assisting with the cost of personal protective equipment, cleaning, and sanitizing supplies. The funds were released as a one-time grant of \$100 per child care space.¹²

TABLE 1.1 SASKATCHEWAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Lead Ministry/Department	Ministry of Education ^a
Related Ministry/Department	Ministry of Social Services ^b
ECE Supervisory Unit	The Early Years Branch ^c
Policy Framework	n/a
Legislation	<i>The Child Care Act, 2014</i> ^d <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015 (last amended 2019)</i> ^e <i>The Education Act, 1995 (last amended 2019)</i> ^f
Related Legislation	n/a
Local Service Delivery	Prekindergarten and Kindergarten: 27 school divisions including Conseil des écoles fransaskoises ^g Child Care: 3 regional offices of the Early Years Branch and 12 Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery Unit branch offices. ^h KidsFirst: 8 targeted communities plus 12 communities in the North ⁱ KidsFirst Regional: 10 Southern Regions Early Childhood Intervention Program: 12 volunteer boards and 2 school divisions ^j
Community/Sector Oversight	Early Years Networks/Coalitions ^k
<p>a Government of Saskatchewan. <i>Education</i>. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education</p> <p>b Government of Saskatchewan. <i>Social Services</i>. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/social-services</p> <p>c Government of Saskatchewan. <i>How Childcare Works in Saskatchewan</i>. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/how-child-care-works</p> <p>d Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Child Care Act, 2014</i>. Retrieved from: http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/english/Statutes/Statutes/C7-31.pdf</p> <p>e Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015</i>. Retrieved from: http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-31R1.pdf</p> <p>f Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Education Act, 1995</i>. Retrieved from: https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/614/E0-2.pdf</p> <p>g Government of Saskatchewan. <i>K-12 School Divisions in Saskatchewan</i>. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools/k-12-school-divisions-in-saskatchewan</p> <p>h Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, October 2, 2020.</p> <p>i Government of Saskatchewan. <i>KidsFirst Helps Build Healthy Families</i>. Media Release 05//23/18. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2018/may/23/kidsfirst</p> <p>j Government of Saskatchewan. <i>Early Childhood Intervention Program</i>. Retrieved from: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/early-childhood-intervention-program</p> <p>k Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, October 2, 2020.</p>	

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The Ministry of Education, Early Years Branch, provides leadership for programming for children from birth up to and including 8 year of age. Responsibilities include managing community-based programs (i.e., Kids First, Early Childhood Intervention Programs, and Child Nutrition Program and Family Resource Centres); licensing, monitoring, and supporting early learning and child care; managing the Prekindergarten program; and supporting Kindergarten.¹³

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

POLICY FRAMEWORK

In 2017, the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed a three-year bilateral agreement allocating just over \$41 million toward accessibility, inclusivity, and quality in early learning and child care. This investment supported establishing and expanding access to new licensed child care spaces; enhancing the quality of early learning and child care experiences for children; providing inclusive early learning opportunities for preschool-aged children who require intensive supports; and expanding Francophone early learning and child care for French-language minority communities.^{14, 15}

Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016–2020 expired as of 2020. The province has yet to determine if it will be renewed.

SERVICE DESIGN¹⁶

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

PREKINDERGARTEN: Prekindergarten is a school-based targeted early education program available for 3- and 4-year-old children living in vulnerable

environments. A qualified teacher and assistant provide programming for 16 children for a minimum of 12 hours/week during the school year. A total of 316 programs are offered free of charge throughout the province.

EARLY LEARNING INTENSIVE SUPPORT PILOT

(ELISP): This program provides access to existing Prekindergarten programming for preschool-aged children who require intensive support. An additional two children may be placed in the Prekindergarten class with the support of an educational assistant and specialized services (e.g., speech language pathology, occupational therapy, etc.).¹⁷ In 2019–2020, the province expanded the ELISP pilot program from 166 to 242 spaces, providing access in 23 school divisions throughout the province.¹⁸

CHILDREN COMMUNICATING, CONNECTING AND IN COMMUNITY PILOT:

This early learning program is for children who are Deaf/deaf or hard of hearing (D/dhoh), or who are connected to the D/dhoh community, such as having a parent who is D/dhoh. The program was designed with input from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission Deaf/deaf and the Hard of Hearing Systemic Advocacy Committee. The program provides both American Sign Language and oral language instruction as this was identified as a necessary component.¹⁹ Sixteen spaces are available in the province's two largest urban centres, Regina and Saskatoon.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE CENTRES: The ministry licenses group programs for children 6 weeks old up to and including 12 years of age. Programs are operated predominantly by non-profit boards and agencies and a small number are sponsored by municipalities. For-profit programs do not receive operational funding, and parent fee subsidies may not be used in for-profit facilities.²⁰

TEEN STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRES: These programs provide licensed child care for more than five continuous hours/day, three or more days/week, primarily for the infants and toddlers of young parents attending a high school or a high school equivalency program.²¹

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES: There are three types of licensed family child care homes:²²

- *Family child care:* Homes are operated by one provider caring for up to eight children, including the provider's own children under 10 years of age. Numbers vary depending on the ages of the children.
- *Group family child care:* Homes are operated by a provider and an assistant for up to 12 children, including the children who reside in the home. Numbers vary depending on the ages of the children.
- *Teen student support family child care:* Homes operate for up to six children, including the provider's own children.²³

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

UNLICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES:

These homes follow the same regulated numbers and ages of children as licensed child care homes. A caregiver may care for a maximum of eight children, including the provider's own children under 10 years of age.

PRESCHOOL: Preschool programs operating for not more than three hours per day do not require a licence.²⁴

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

These programs operate on school premises and serve school-age children or Kindergarten children. They are exempt from licensing requirements and are often operated by non-profit organizations.²⁵

CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

KIDSFIRST TARGETED PROGRAM: This voluntary program supports positive learning experiences and the holistic development of children from birth up to and including 3 years of age living in vulnerable circumstances in eight targeted communities plus the North. It provides multifaceted services to families using an interdisciplinary team model that includes paraprofessionals (e.g., home visitors) and professionals (e.g., mental health and addictions staff). It also provides linkages to child care, early learning, and other community supports to help eligible parents deal with issues affecting them.²⁶

KIDSFIRST REGIONAL PROGRAM: This program provides services in smaller communities in the southern part of the province. Early childhood community developers work with community stakeholders and partners to provide group programming for families with children from birth up to and including 5 years of age. Community developers support early childhood development in the areas of healthy beginnings, early learning, child care, strong families, and community alignment.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

PROGRAMS: This in-home early intervention program is designed for children from birth up to and including 5 years of age experiencing or at-risk of experiencing developmental delays and disabilities. Children's development is assessed across six domains, after which curriculum-based intervention activities are offered to address developmental deficits. The program also helps families connect with additional services and resources within the community and make successful transitions to school.²⁷

EARLY YEARS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES:

These centres offer prevention-oriented services, including drop-in services, information resources, parenting support, early literacy opportunities, and access to visiting professionals. In 2019-2020, seven new centres were established,²⁸ resulting in a total of 10 operational Early Years Family Resource Centres across the province.

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Twenty-seven school divisions support Kindergarten, Prekindergarten, Petite Enfance and Maternelle programs. These include 18 public school divisions, eight separate school divisions, and one Francophone school division.²⁹

Three regional offices (Northern Region, Central Region, Southern Region) with a total of 12 Early Learning and Child Care Service Delivery Unit branch offices monitor, license, and consult with regulated child care programs.³⁰

Integrated management committees govern 10 KidsFirst programs situated in geographic areas of greatest need. These management committees provide strategic and operational advice to the accountable partner, which is either a school division or the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Staff members in more than 10 communities across the province deliver in-home services to families.

Regional KidsFirst programs operate in 10 southern regions in the province.

Fourteen early childhood interventionist organizations located across Saskatchewan use early interventionists to deliver in-home and in-office services, along with collaborating with community partners. Volunteer boards oversee these organizations.

Ten Early Years Family Resource Centres operate in the communities of Battlefords, La Ronge, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Prince Albert, Regina, Sandy Bay, Saskatoon, and Yorkton. They offer a flexible range of programs that respond to the needs of families with young children in the areas of early learning, parenting education, family wellness and support, and information and referrals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ OVERSIGHT

N/A

TABLE 2.1 SASKATCHEWAN ALLOCATION FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020

Capital funding	
Capital for centre-based child care spaces ^a	\$1,322,200
Operating funding	
Child care fee subsidies ^b	\$13,535,000
Operating funds ^c	\$71,217,000
Total regulated child care^d	\$86,074,200

a Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, December 4, 2020.

b Government of Saskatchewan. *Ministry of Social Services Annual Report for 2019-20*. Retrieved from: <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/119958/2019-20SocialServicesAnnualReport.pdf>

c Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry of Education's 2019-20 Annual Report*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>

d Expenditures include federal funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

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

Prekindergarten ^{a,b}	\$28,070,402
Kindergarten ^{a,c}	\$76,041,429
Regulated child care ^a	\$86,074,200
Early Learning and Intensive Support Pilot ^a	\$3,025,000
Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community Pilot ^a	\$222,200
Early Childhood Intervention Program ^d	\$4,285,000
Other ECE spending (<i>KidsFirst</i>) ^d	\$15,651,000
Other ECE spending (Family Resource Centres) ^a	\$2,500,000
Total ECEC spending^e	\$215,869,231
Total provincial budget spending estimate ^f	\$13,726,809,000
ECEC as a % of provincial budget	1.6%

a Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, August 14, 2020.

b Based on 5,056 children in 316 Prekindergarten programs. Total funding includes \$20,664,392 in Prekindergarten base funding and \$7,406,010 for other funding components.

c Estimate based on 2019-2020 Kindergarten enrolment (13,999).

d Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry of Education's 2019-20 Annual Report*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>

e Does not include federal funding to Indigenous communities through Inuit, Métis, and First Nations agreements.

f Estimated 2019-2020 expenditure. Government of Saskatchewan. Estimates for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31 2021. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106275/formats/118856/download>

TABLE 3.1 SASKATCHEWAN CHILD POPULATION 0 TO 5 YEARS (2019)

Child population 0 to 5 years	93,233
0 to <24 months ^a	30,726
24 months to <5 years ^a	46,787
5 years ^a	15,720
Total population of Saskatchewan ^b	1,178,681
Children 0 to 5 years as % of total population	7.9%

a 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: April 24, 2020).

b Government of Saskatchewan. *Saskatchewan Quarterly Population Report: Second Quarter 2020*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/87174/formats/121074/download>

TABLE 3.2 SASKATCHEWAN 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	15,600	66.4%
24 months to <5 years	19,500	75.9%
5 years	6,000	77.9%
Total mothers in labour force with child 0 to 5 years	41,100	
Average labour force participation of mothers with youngest child 0 to 5 years		72.2%

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 SASKATCHEWAN ECE SCHOOL PROGRAMS (2019-2020)

Children attending Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot ^a	242
Children attending Children Communicating, Connecting, and in Community Pilot ^a	32
Children attending 3- to 4-year-old Prekindergarten ^b	5,056
3- to 4-year-old child population ^c	31,295
% of children attending Prekindergarten	16%
Children attending 5-year-old Kindergarten ^{a,d}	14,303
5-year-old child population ^c	15,720
% of children attending Kindergarten	90.9%

a Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, September 15, 2020.

b Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry of Education's 2019-20 Annual Report*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>

c 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: April 24, 2020).

d Enrolment as of September 30, 2020. These numbers include associate school enrolments but do not include children enrolled at First Nations Schools or other Independent Schools as information for those schools is not available.

TABLE 3.4 SASKATCHEWAN LICENSED CHILD CARE TO MARCH 31, 2020^a

Spaces by age group	
Infants and toddlers (6 weeks to <30 months)	4,627
Preschool-aged (30 months to <6 years) ^b	7,070
School-aged (Grade 1 to <13 years)	1,436
Total spaces centre-based programs ^c	15,103
Family child care/home and group	2,330
Total capacity regulated child care centres	17,433
Facilities by type	
Centre-based programs	342
Family child care providers	244
Facilities by auspice	Funded child care is non-profit

a Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, August 10, 2020. The Saskatchewan government does not license First Nations child care programs. Funding for First Nations child care programs is provided by the federal government. Health Canada. *First Nations Head Start Standards Guide*. Retrieved from: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-ISC-SAC/DAM-ILTH/STAGING/texte-text/family-health-head-start-ahsor_fn-standards-guide_1582214848065_eng.pdf

b Includes Prekindergarten and Kindergarten.

c Includes 1,970 flexible spaces. A flexible space may be occupied by a toddler, preschooler or school-age child. As of March 2020, an additional 658 spaces were in development. Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, August 10, 2020.

TABLE 3.5 SASKATCHEWAN PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ATTENDING ECE PROGRAMS BY AGE GROUP

Child Ages	Number of Children ^a	Child Care/ Preschool	Prekindergarten/ Kindergarten ^b	Other ECE Programs ^c	% Children Attending ECEC Programs
6 weeks to <24 months	30,726	3,653 ^d			11.8%
24 months to <5 years	46,787	3,918 ^e	5,056	3,650	27%
5 years	15,720	^h	14,303 ^g		90.9%

- a 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: April 24, 2020).
- b Kindergarten enrolment as of September 30, 2019. Enrolment figures include associate schools but do not reflect children enrolled at First Nations Schools or other Independent Schools as information for those schools is not reported to the Ministry of Education. Prekindergarten/Kindergarten enrolment: Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, June 4, 2020.
- c Includes Aboriginal Head Start and child care on First Nations. There are approximately 73 on-reserve child care facilities with 1,051 spaces monitored by First Nations. These are not included in the provincial count of spaces. This is in addition to 77 Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve programs and 16 Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities sites with an estimated enrolment of 2,325. Includes children enrolled in the Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot (242) and the Children Communicating, Connecting and In Community Pilot (32). Does not include enrolment in unlicensed preschools. Personal communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, October 2, 2020.
- d Participation is estimated. Child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report. Please see methodology for calculation details.
- e Participation is estimated. Child care age groupings do not match the age groupings in the report. To avoid double counting, the percentage of 3- to 4-year-olds attending Prekindergarten is deducted from the child care count. Please see methodology for calculation details.
- h It is assumed children attending child care also attend Kindergarten.
- g All children in the province have access to Kindergarten, this number represents actual enrolment. Personal communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, June 4, 2020.

AFFORDABILITY

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

Child care fee subsidies are available to eligible families using a calculation that considers family size, the child's age, the location of a child care facility, and the actual fee charged. Maximum subsidies are provided to families with monthly incomes below \$1,640 with one child. This threshold increases by \$100 for each additional child. Maximum subsidy rates are prescribed at monthly full-time and part-time rates, depending on the type and location of the child care facility and the age of child, but do not exceed 90% of the fee charged.³¹

Child care programs set their own rates. Parental fees can range widely depending on the

community. A 2019 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report³² shows monthly fees for infants (\$995) and toddlers (\$800) in Saskatoon are the highest in the province.

INCLUSION

Inclusion funding is available to child care centres and licensed child care homes providing child care services for children with diverse needs. Grants of up to \$300 a month are available to assist with the cost of additional supervision required to meet the child's needs, and up to \$600 a year for equipment (\$1,200/year in exceptional cases). In cases where a child has complex needs and requires individualized attention, grants of up to \$2,000 monthly are available for additional staff. Inclusion grants must be renewed each year.³³

TABLE 4.1 SASKATCHEWAN CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS^a

Program	Framework Document
Child Care/Infants and Toddlers	<i>Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers. A Companion Booklet to Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide (Fall 2010)</i> ^b
Child Care (Francophone)	<i>Jouer et explorer: Nourrissons et tout petits (2013)</i> ^c
Child Care	<i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide (2008)</i> ^d promotes play-based learning experiences for 3- to 5-year-old children in a variety of settings including the home, child care, Prekindergarten, preschool, and other early childhood settings. Supporting document <i>Essential Learning Experiences (2015)</i> ^e provides further information regarding the domains of holistic learning for preschool-aged children.
Prekindergarten	<i>Prekindergarten Essentials (2017)</i> ^f replaces <i>Better Beginning, Better Futures</i> . It contains practices, policies, and guidelines. <i>Family Engagement in Prekindergarten: A Resource Guide for Prekindergarten Teachers and Associates (2012)</i> ^g supports programs in creating respectful, reciprocal relationships with families. <i>2010 Saskatchewan Curriculum: Kindergarten</i> ^h
Kindergarten	Additional tools include <i>Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten (2009)</i> ⁱ <i>Maternelle Programme Fransaskois</i> ^j and <i>Maternelle Immersion francaise</i> ^k are the provincial curricula for Fransaskois and French Immersion Kindergarten programs

- a The principles of 2010 Saskatchewan Curriculum: Kindergarten and Prekindergarten Essentials (2017) are reflected in *Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide (2008)*. The use of a curriculum framework is mandatory in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten, but not child care programs.
- b Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers. A Companion booklet to Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide (Fall 2010)*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/74069/formats/82949/download>
- c Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Jouer et explorer: Nourrissons et tout petits*. Retrieved from: https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/100066/100066-Jouer_et_explorer_Nourrissons_et_tout_petits.doc_April_2013.pdf
- d Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/74066/formats/82946/download>
- e Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Essential Learning Experiences*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/79287/formats/89611/download>
- f Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *2017 Prekindergarten Essentials: Effective Practices, Policies, and Guidelines*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/88213/formats/104897/download>
- g Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Family Engagement in Prekindergarten: A Resource Guide for Prekindergarten Teachers and Associates*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/74055/formats/82935/download>
- h Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *2010 Saskatchewan Curriculum, Kindergarten*. Retrieved from: https://www.edonline.sk.ca/bbcswebdav/library/curricula/English/Kindergarten_K_2010.pdf
- i Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *2009 Saskatchewan Curriculum, Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten*. Retrieved from: https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/40196/40196-Children_First_K_2009.pdf
- j Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Maternelle Programme Fransaskois 2010 Programme d'études de la Saskatchewan*. Retrieved from: https://www.edonline.sk.ca/bbcswebdav/library/curricula/Francais/Francais/Maternelle_2010_FRAN.pdf
- k Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Programme d'études Maternelle en immersion*. Retrieved from: https://www.k12.gov.sk.ca/docs/francais/maternelle/matcguide/pdf/mat_cgguide.pdf

WORK ENVIRONMENT

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

CHILD CARE CENTRES^a		
Age	Staff:Child Ratios	Max. Group Size
6 weeks to <18 months	1:3	6
18 to <30 months	1:5	10
30 months to <6 years, including Kindergarten	1:10	20
6 to <13 years	1:15	30
FAMILY HOME DAYCARE PROGRAM		
Family child care homes ^b	1:8 including provider's own children <10 years old	8
Group family child care homes ^b	2:12 including provider's/assistant's own children <13 years old	12
Teen student support family child care homes ^c	1:6 including provider's own children	6
<p>a Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015</i>. Retrieved from: http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-31R1.pdf</p> <p>b Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Child Care Act, 2014</i>. Retrieved from: http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/english/Statutes/Statutes/C7-31.pdf</p> <p>c Government of Saskatchewan. <i>The Child Care Regulations, 2015</i>. Retrieved from: http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-31R1.pdf</p>		

KINDERGARTEN CLASS SIZE: There is no maximum class size for Kindergarten. Prekindergarten classes are capped at 16. The ELISP allows for two additional children to be included in Prekindergarten classes with the support of an educational assistant.³⁴

CHILD CARE PROGRAM SIZE: A regulated child care centre may have a maximum of 90 spaces. The maximum number of infant spaces per centre is 12.³⁵



EDUCATORS

TABLE 4.3 SASKATCHEWAN EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers	Bachelor of Education degree or equivalent is required, including 48 semester hours of professional education and a practicum. ^a
Early Childhood Educators ^b	<p>ECE Level I – Completion of an ECE orientation from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution, or completion of nine credit units (three courses) directly related to early childhood, including one course from each of three areas: child development, programming, and relationships.</p> <p>ECE Level II – Completion of a one-year ECE certificate from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.</p> <p>ECE Level III – Completion of a two-year ECE diploma from an approved, accredited post-secondary institution or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.</p>

a Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. *Certification*. Retrieved from: http://www.sptrb.ca/web/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Certification/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Certification.aspx?hkey=6b376901-39b5-42db-8a5f-17ca75158320

b Government of Saskatchewan. *Early Childhood Educator Certification*. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/education-and-child-care-facility-administration/become-an-early-childhood-educator>

TABLE 4.4 SASKATCHEWAN PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

	Teachers	ECEs
Professional Recognition	The Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) is responsible for teacher certification with the enactment of <i>The Registered Teachers Act 2015</i> . Annual registration with the SPTRB is required to teach in Saskatchewan’s publicly funded PreK-12 education system. ^a	Educator Services, part of the Ministry of Education, assesses all applicants and provides ministry certification for ECE levels I, II, and III. ^b
Professional Development	Not required	Not required

a Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board. *Certification*. Retrieved from: http://www.sptrb.ca/web/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Certification/SPTRB/Certification_and_Registration/Certification.aspx?hkey=6b376901-39b5-42db-8a5f-17ca75158320

b Government of Saskatchewan. *Early Childhood Educator Certification*. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/education-and-child-care-facility-administration/become-an-early-childhood-educator>

TABLE 4.5 SASKATCHEWAN DENSITY OF QUALIFIED STAFF IN CHILD CARE CENTRES

ECE Level I ^{a,b}	Minimum for all staff
ECE Level II ^a	30% of staff
ECE Level III ^{a,c}	20% of staff, including director and supervisors

- a Government of Saskatchewan. *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-31R1.pdf>. One in two staff require a minimum of a one-year program in early childhood studies.
- b Applies to child care centre staff working with children for 65 hours/month or more. Individuals who work fewer than 65 hours/month are not required to have ECE certification.
- c Directors of child care centres require an ECE Level III.

TABLE 4.6 SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS AND ECES ANNUAL SALARIES (2019)

Teachers ^a	Early Childhood Educators ^b	ECE Salary as % of Teachers. Salary
\$90,076	\$33,280	37%

- a Maximum salary at Category 5 equivalent (as of May 1, 2019). British Columbia Teachers' Federation. *Teacher salaries across Canada: How does BC compare?* Retrieved from: <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/Research/Reports/Cross-Canada%20teacher%20salaries.pdf>
- b Full-time ECE with post-secondary training. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation 0620_13 Table 4: Average and Median Wages by Selected Occupations, National Occupational Classification (NOC) 2016, Highest Educational Attainment and Sex for Employed Employees, Canada, Provinces, Territories, Annual Average, 2016 to 2019 (persons x 1,000) accessed November 19, 2020.



PROGRESS REPORTS: The *Canada-Saskatchewan 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.³⁶ The most recent report was tabled in July 2020 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.³⁷

In 2016-17 a biennial format was adopted for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten reporting. The Kindergarten Biennial Report is completed once every two years by teachers and provides information about class composition, training and professional development, and program evaluation. Reporting alternates each year between Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs. The 2019-20 Kindergarten report was suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸

PROGRAM STANDARDS: Standards are in place for licensed child care programs. Saskatchewan Curriculum outlines program standards for Prekindergarten and Kindergarten environments.

POPULATION MONITORING: Results from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) were last collected by provincial school divisions in Saskatchewan in 2012-2013, although not all provincial school divisions participated. The Early Years Evaluation (EYE) - Teacher Assessment (TA) is a mandated screening tool used in Kindergarten that provides a leading indicator of children's development with a focus on literacy. EYE results help guide schools in planning and practice for meeting the learning needs of whole classes, small groups, and individual children at a critical point in the early years. Partial EYE results are available for the 2019-20 school year; however, data collection was limited due to COVID-19 related school closures.³⁹

- 1 Government of Canada. *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2020-2021*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/saskatchewan-2020.html>
- 2 Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry of Education Annual Report for 2019-20*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>
- 3 Government of Saskatchewan. Throne Speech Focuses on Pandemic Response, Keeping Campaign Commitments. Media Release 03/16/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/november/30/throne-speech-focuses-on-pandemic-response-keeping-campaign-commitments>
- 4 Government of Saskatchewan. *Province Announces Class Suspensions Effective March 20, Wind Down Period Until Thursday*. Media Release 03/16/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/16/class-suspensions>
- 5 Government of Saskatchewan. *COVID-19 Update – Child Care Options For Health Workers And Other Pandemic Response Workers*. Media Release 03/20/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/20/covid-19-update-child-care-options>
- 6 Government of Saskatchewan. *Child Care Accessibility Expanded as of May 4 for Working Parents*. Media Release 04/30/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/april/30/child-care-spaces>
- 7 Government of Saskatchewan. *COVID-19: Additional Measures to Protect Saskatchewan Residents*. Media Release 03/20/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/20/covid-19-update-march-20>
- 8 Government of Saskatchewan. *Province Announces Social Services Pandemic Response*. Media Release 03/31/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/march/31/social-services-pandemic-response>
- 9 Government of Saskatchewan. *Temporary Wage Supplement for Lower Income Essential Workers for Vulnerable Citizens*. Media Release 04/30/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/april/30/temporary-wage-supplement>
- 10 Government of Saskatchewan. *Child Care Facilities Receiving Nearly \$2 Million for COVID-19 Safety Measures*. Media Release 12/14/2020. Retrieved from: [https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/december/14/child-care-facilities-receiving-nearly-\\$2-million-for-covid-19-safety-measures](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/december/14/child-care-facilities-receiving-nearly-$2-million-for-covid-19-safety-measures)
- 11 Government of Saskatchewan. *June 18, 2020 Guidelines Announced For Students’ Safe Return To Prekindergarten To Grade 12 Classrooms In September*. Media Release 06/18/2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/june/18/educational-institution-guidelines>
- 12 Government of Saskatchewan. *Child Care Facilities Receiving Nearly \$2 Million for COVID-19 Safety Measures*. Media Release 12/14/2020. Retrieved from: [https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/december/14/child-care-facilities-receiving-nearly-\\$2-million-for-covid-19-safety-measures](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2020/december/14/child-care-facilities-receiving-nearly-$2-million-for-covid-19-safety-measures)
- 13 Government of Saskatchewan. *How Childcare Works in Saskatchewan*. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/how-child-care-works>
- 14 Government of Canada. *Canada – Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement – 2017- 2020*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/saskatchewan-2017.html>
- 15 Government of Canada. (2018). *Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are improving quality, accessibility and affordability of early learning and child care for families*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/03/governments-of-canada-and-saskatchewan-are-improving-quality-accessibility-and-affordability-of-early-learning-and-child-care-for-families.html>
- 16 Government of Saskatchewan. *PreK-12 Education, Early Learning and Schools*. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools>
- 17 Government of Saskatchewan. *Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot*. Retrieved from:

- <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/89222/formats/106058/download>
- 18 Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, October 2, 2020.
 - 19 Government of Saskatchewan. *Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community Pilot*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/90768/formats/107658/download>
 - 20 Government of Saskatchewan. *Child Care Space Development in Saskatchewan*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/11/94591-Space%20Development%20in%20SK%20201.Pdf>
 - 21 Government of Saskatchewan. *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-3IR1.pdf>
 - 22 Government of Saskatchewan. *The Child Care Act, 2014*. Retrieved from: <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/english/Statutes/Statutes/C7-31.pdf>
 - 23 Government of Saskatchewan. *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-3IR1.pdf>
 - 24 Ibid.
 - 25 Ibid.
 - 26 Government of Saskatchewan. *KidsFirst Helps Build Healthy Families*. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2018/may/23/kidsfirst>
 - 27 Government of Saskatchewan. Early Childhood Intervention Program. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/early-childhood-intervention-program>
 - 28 Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. Ministry of Education Annual Report for 2019-20. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>
 - 29 Government of Saskatchewan. K-12 School Divisions in Saskatchewan. Retrieved from: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools/k-12-school-divisions-in-saskatchewan>
 - 30 Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, October 2, 2020.
 - 31 Government of Saskatchewan. *Child Care Subsidies*. Retrieved from: <https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/76138/Child-Care-Subsidies-factsheet.pdf>
 - 32 Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (March 2020). *In Progress: Child Care Fees in Canada 2019*. Retrieved from: https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2020/03/In%20progress_Child%20care%20fees%20in%20Canada%20in%202019_march12.pdf
 - 33 Government of Saskatchewan. *The Inclusion Program and Application Information*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/11/97344-Inclusion%20Program%20Application%20Information.pdf>
 - 34 Personal Communication, Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Education, August 25, 2020.
 - 35 Government of Saskatchewan. *The Child Care Regulations, 2015*. Retrieved from: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-3IR1.pdf>
 - 36 Government of Canada. *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement - 2017-2020*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/saskatchewan-2017.html>
 - 37 Government of Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry of Education's 2019-20 Annual Report*. Retrieved from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/106879/formats/119955/download>
 - 38 Ibid.
 - 39 Ibid.