

Prince Edward Island



OVERVIEW 77

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT 78

Demographic information
Parental leave and benefits

KINDERGARTEN 81

Provincial responsibility for kindergarten
Kindergarten for five-year-olds
Kindergarten for four-year-olds

CHILD CARE 83

Provincial responsibility for child care
Legislation and regulations
Child care services (definitions)
Unregulated child care
Regulated child care
Curriculum framework
Children with special needs
First Nations, Métis and Inuit child care
Space statistics
Fee subsidies
Enrolment statistics
Parent fees
Workforce
Standards and regulations
Regulated child care centres
Regulated family child care

FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE 92

Parent fee subsidies
Operational funding
One-time funding
Other ELCC funding
Provincial funding for regulated child care
Federal transfers to province

OF INTEREST 96

Family resource programs

PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS 96

Prince Edward Island



■ OVERVIEW

In Prince Edward Island, early learning and child care includes pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, regulated Early Childhood Centres, Early Years Centres, preschool centres, school-age centres, and family home centres.

Kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning (DELL). Full-school day kindergarten is available to all age-eligible five-year-olds. Part-day pre-kindergarten at no parental fee is available for all four-year-olds and is offered under child care aegis by regulated child care centres. Kindergarten is compulsory, but parents may delay their child's entry for a year if they choose. Pre-kindergarten is not compulsory.

Child care is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning under the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. Programs are delivered by non-profit and for-profit operators. There are nearly twice as many for-profit as non-profit operators and a small number of centres delivered by public entities. There are two licensed Early Years Centres located on First Nations reserves on PEI, both of which receive regular funding from the province.

Parent fees in Early Years Centres (EYC) are set by the province. EYCs receive base, or operational, funding on a quarterly basis. EYCs have been required to use a provincial wage grid since 2010.

As of January 1, 2022, centres that are not EYCs may receive funding to reduce parent fees. A parent fee subsidy is available to eligible parents through the Child Care Subsidy Program and may be used at any licensed centre or home.

Prince Edward Island signed the Canada-Prince Edward Island Early Years and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on August 29, 2017. This agreement allocated \$10.6 million over three years; it was extended on September 16, 2020 with an additional \$3.5 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on August 5, 2021, allocating another \$16.2 million over four years.

The Canada – Prince Edward Island Canada-Wide Early Years and Child Care Agreement was signed by Prince Edward Island on July 27, 2021. This agreement allocated nearly \$118 million over five years to:

- improve affordability by capping parent fees and expanding access to the existing child care subsidy program;
- support centres to expand hours and open on weekends;
- create more infant spaces and spaces in rural areas;
- expand existing services for children with special needs, Acadian and Francophone families with newborn children, and children in underserved communities;
- further development and implementation of a province-wide wage grid; and
- provide professional development opportunities.

The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the Multilateral Framework Agreement.

■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Please note that some of the following figures are rounded, while totals are based on exact figures and may therefore not equal the sum of the rounded figures shown here.

Number of children 0 – 12 (2021 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children (2021)
0	1,300
1	1,500
2	1,300
3	1,500
4	1,600
5	1,600
6	2,000
7	1,700
8	1,800
9	1,700
10	1,500
11	1,600
12	1,600
Total	20,800

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2021 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children (2021)
0 – 2	4,100
3 – 5	4,700
6 – 12	11,900
Total	20,800

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2021 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0	1,000
1	1,100
2	900
3	1,000
4	1,200
5	1,200
6	1,500
7	1,400
8	1,300
9	1,200
10	1,000
11	900
12	1,200
Total	14,900

Number of children 0 – 12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2021 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0 – 2	3,000
3 – 5	3,400
6 – 12	8,500
Total	14,900

Number of children 0 – 14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>First Nations</i>	<i>Métis</i>	<i>Inuk (Inuit)</i>	<i>Multiple</i>	<i>Other</i>
0 – 4	175	45	15	0	15
5 – 9	140	70	25	0	10
10 – 14	210	85	15	0	0
Total	525	200	55	0	25

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2021 rounded estimate)

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	3,500	85.4
4 – 5	1,300	86.7
0 – 5	4,800	85.8
6 – 12	4,700	85.5

Living arrangements by age of child by number of parents (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Living with two parents</i>	<i>Living with one parent</i>	<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>
0 – 4	5,645	1,040	855	180
5 – 9	6,240	1,740	1,360	370
10 – 14	6,530	2,105	1,630	475

Languages spoken most often at home (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Non-official</i>	<i>Multiple</i>
0 – 4	6,175	80	360	135
5 – 9	7,380	115	425	170
10 – 14	7,960	120	530	175
Total	21,510	315	1,320	485

Median after-tax income among families with children aged 0 – 5 (2020)

<i>Two-parent families</i>	<i>Male lone-parent</i>	<i>Female lone-parent</i>
\$89,000	\$45,200	\$43,200

PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. The federal government pays benefits under the Employment Insurance program (EI); provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation. EI is a contributory program; both employees and employers contribute.

LEAVE PROVISIONS

Maternity leave

17 weeks.

A pregnant employee who has been employed by the same employer for at least 20 of the 52 weeks immediately preceding the commencement date specified in the leave application is eligible for maternity leave.

Parental leave

62 weeks for birth or adoption.

An employee who has been employed by the same employer for at least 20 of the 52 weeks immediately preceding the day on which the requested leave is to commence and who is the parent of a child is eligible.

Parents can receive their weeks of benefits at the same time or one after another.

PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFITS

Benefit options in 2022

Employment Insurance (EI) covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employed birth mothers up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth.

Two options for parental leave benefits

(parents must choose one)

Until December 3, 2017, there was one option for parental leave benefits: 35 weeks of paid leave taken over 12 months, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings (up to \$638/week in 2022). This option is now known as the Standard Parental Benefit; or

As of December 3, 2017, EI benefits include an additional option, the Extended Parental Benefit. This pays 61 weeks of parental leave benefits taken over 18 months and paid at 33% of average weekly earnings (up to \$383/week in 2022).

As of March 17, 2019, the Parental Sharing Benefit also became available to non-birth/second parent. Under this additional benefit, five weeks of Standard Benefits is available if parents share Standard Parental Benefits (40 weeks total) or an additional eight weeks of Extended Benefits is available when parents share Extended Parental Benefits (69 weeks total).

Parents' access to taking paid parental leave requires that provinces/territories' leave provisions must match federal benefits.

Note: For further details about the EI federal benefit, Quebec benefit and leave provisions, and provincial/territorial provisions for job-protected leave, see the PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS in the front section of this publication.

■ KINDERGARTEN

In Prince Edward Island, kindergarten is the responsibility of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning (DELL).

The Public Schools Branch operates PEI public schools and has been governed by an appointed Board of Director. Prince Edward Island has committed to reinstating an elected school board for the Public Schools Branch. The proposed new model includes eight elected trustees from across the province and three appointed members—one Mi'kmaq representative, and two appointed members-at-large. The French Language School Board continues to be elected and consists of nine elected trustees from across the province.

Full-school day kindergarten is available to all children of eligible age. Kindergarten is compulsory, but parents may delay their child's entry for a year if they choose.

In Fall 2021, Prince Edward Island introduced a non-compulsory, part-day, universal program for all four-year-olds called pre-kindergarten. There is no fee for the core program of 15 hours per week, which is offered in licensed early childhood centres and provided by certified early childhood educators.

Lennox Island Mi'kmaq First Nation operates a school for kindergarten children living on the Lennox Island reserve funded by Indigenous Services Canada.

Prince Edward Island regulates but does not fund denominational or other private schools.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Lifelong Learning
Suite 101, 250 Water Street
Summerside, PE C1N 1B6
Phone: 902-438-4130
Email: DeptELL@gov.pe.ca
Website: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-and-lifelong-learning>

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act.* – RSPEI1988, C-E-.02.

KINDERGARTEN FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

DEFINITION

Kindergarten is a full-school day program, part of the public education system and the responsibility of the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning (DELL).

Prior to 2010, kindergarten was delivered by child care centres under child care legislation. In 2010, it moved into the public education system.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to attend kindergarten, children must be five years old by December 31 of the school year.

ENROLMENT

Kindergarten is compulsory, but parents can choose to defer entry for one year if they choose. Thus, compulsory education begins when a child is six years old by December 31 of the school year.

ENTITLEMENT

All eligible children are entitled to a kindergarten space.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY/TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As a full-school day program, there are five instructional hours per day. According to the academic calendar there are 182 instructional days per academic year.

CLASS SIZE

Kindergarten class sizes are based on 15 children. If there are 18 or more children in a class, an additional teacher is required.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Kindergarten integrated curriculum document](#)

[Maternelle d'immersion français - programme d'études](#)

The use of the [kindergarten curriculum](#) is mandated in public schools. In French immersion, the [Maternelle d'immersion français](#) is to be used.

GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

To be a qualified PEI teacher requires a valid [Prince Edward Island Teacher's Certificate](#) issued by the Certification and Standards Section Department of Education and Lifelong Learning.

To qualify for a PEI Teacher's Certificate, applicants require an approved 120 credit hour bachelor of education, or an approved undergraduate degree of a minimum of 90 credit hours plus an approved teacher education program with a minimum of 30 credit hours.

Kindergarten teachers are not required to have a primary/elementary concentration (K – 6) but it is considered an asset.

KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS (PRE-KINDERGARTEN)

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program
Department of Education and Lifelong Learning
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
Email Attn: Manager of Early Learning and Child Care
prekindergarten@gov.pe.ca
Website: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-lifelong-learning/the-universal-pre-kindergarten-program>

Prince Edward Island announced the implementation of a part-day [Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program in March 2021](#).

As of September 2021, the province offers a free, play-based pre-kindergarten program to all four-year-old children. The core program is delivered for 15 hours a week in licensed early childhood centres (non-profit and for-profit). The program follows the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#).

PARENT FEES

There are no parent fees for the 15 hour per week pre-kindergarten program. Families whose child is in full-day child care do not pay for the pre-kindergarten component of the day.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM

Pre-kindergarten is delivered through licensed child care centres across the province. As delivery of the program is based on licensed early childhood centres' capacity to offer the program and the needs of the community, if a gap in service is identified, the provincial government (DELL) works with service providers/municipalities/interested individuals to license additional pre-kindergarten spaces in that area.

ELIGIBILITY

Children must be four years old by December 31 of the year of enrolment.

COMPULSORY

Participation in pre-kindergarten is voluntary.

ENTITLEMENT

Pre-kindergarten is not an entitlement.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY /TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE PRE-KINDERGARTEN DAY

Pre-kindergarten is funded for 15 hours per week but schedules vary. For example, centres can choose to offer part-day, daily programming five days/week for three hours/ day, or they may decide to offer full-day programming two days a week for 7.5 hours per day.

CLASS SIZE

There is no maximum class size for a pre-kindergarten room but it is based on a staff:child ratio of 1:10 as per the regulations in the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) for children aged three years to school entry.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

All early childhood centres offering the pre-kindergarten program use the [PEI Early Learning Framework](#).

GENERAL EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

The pre-kindergarten program is staffed by certified early childhood educators, preferably at the ECE 3 level. Staff qualifications are outlined in the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#).

TOTAL ENROLMENT (SCHOOL YEAR 2021 – 2022)

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds (public school)	1,545
Pre-kindergarten (4-year-olds)	1,172
Total enrolment	2,717

Note: Kindergarten enrolment includes children enrolled in public schools only. An additional 26 children are enrolled in private kindergartens.

FINANCIAL (SCHOOL YEAR 2021 – 2022)

Spending on kindergarten (per child)	\$12,500
Spending on kindergarten (total)	\$19,312,500
Spending on pre-kindergarten (per child) (Sept 2021 – March 2022)	\$2,071
Spending on pre-kindergarten (total) (Sept 2021 – Mar 2022)	\$2,426,996

Note: Pre-kindergarten spending is based on \$70/child/week for 10 months/year.

RECENT OR ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENTS

Pre-kindergarten Expansion Funding Capital Grant

Funding is available for capital costs to support existing non-profit and for-profit centres to increase enrolment numbers for pre-k.

CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Lifelong Learning
Holman Centre
Suite 101, 250 Water Street
Summerside, PE C1N 1B6
Phone: 902-438-4130
Email: DeptELL@gov.pe.ca
Website: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-and-lifelong-learning>

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#). RSPEI 1988 C-E-0.1.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. [Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations](#). PEI Reg EC819/16.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

An unregulated provider may care for a maximum of five children, with no more than two infants, or six children, if all are preschool-age or a mixture of preschool and school-age, or seven school-age children. The provider's own children must be included in the total numbers.

There are no health, safety or training requirements or provision for public oversight in unregulated care. Attention by local or provincial public officials is on a complaint basis.

Note: Additional exemptions to regulation can be found in the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Early Childhood Centres

Early Childhood Centres are licensed early learning and child care programs that provide services to infants, preschool-aged and school-aged children.

There are two types of Early Childhood Centres:

- centres with Early Years Centre (EYC) designation, which are more publicly managed and include for-profit, not-for-profit and public; and
- centres without EYC designation, which are termed private centres and may be for-profit or not-for-profit.

Early Childhood Centres operate full-day for less than 24 hours/day.

Early Years Centres

To be considered for an [Early Years Centre designation](#), a centre must be an Early Childhood Centre and in good standing with the Early Learning and Child Care Board for a minimum of six months prior to designation.

Early Years Centres are governed by additional provincial policies, such as being required to provide infant care, accept children with special needs, have parent advisory committees, charge a provincially set parent fee, pay specified staff wages and benefits according to a provincial salary scale, use a mandated curriculum framework, use the Early Learning and Child Care Registry, and have all certified staff (with the exception of support staff). Early Years Centres are also mandated to participate in the Early Childhood Resource program, which provides support vis-a-vis the curriculum framework.

Early Years Centres receive formula-based operating funding to cover the difference between regulated parent fees and operating costs.

As of July 2022, there were 72 active Early Years Centres across Prince Edward Island.

Preschool centres

Centre-based programs operating less than four consecutive hours per day for children who are at least three years of age but not yet attending school.

School-age centres

Centre-based child care programs for school-age children (usually aged 5 – 12 years) on weekdays during one or more of the following time periods: before or after school, school lunch period or during regular school hours when schools are closed (e.g. professional development days or summer break).

Family home centres

Licensed child care located in a private residence, where a family home child care provider can provide care for a maximum of eight children, aged infant to school-age, including the provider's own child(ren).

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[PEI Early learning framework 2011: Relationships, environments, experiences \(ELF\)](#).

The curriculum framework is focused on children from infancy to school entry. Early Years Centres and publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs are required to use the provincial early learning framework.

Other early childhood centres may seek permission from the Early Learning and Child Care Board to use alternative programs to the provincial curriculum as long as those programs meet the requirements set out by regulation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE TEAM

The provincial government's [Early Childhood Resource Team](#) provides support to licensed programs, including licensed family home child care. The team supports early years directors, staff and owners through training and mentoring, quality improvement measures and encouraging a community of learning within the sector. The resource team includes early childhood coaches, inclusion support consultants, and an English as a Second Language and French as a Second Language early childhood consultant.

Participation is mandatory for designated Early Years Centres and centres with pre-kindergarten programs. All other licensed programs can ask for assistance from the Early Childhood Resource Team.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(PEI uses the term children with special needs)

Special Needs Funding and Early Years Autism Funding provide support to families and child care facilities to include children requiring additional supports in child care programs. Supports may include additional staff and training and professional development for regular staff.

Special Needs Grant was introduced in 1988. The purpose of the grant is to:

- support inclusion of children with special needs in a licensed early childhood setting;
- allow for appropriate, individualized programs within a licensed child care centre;
- eliminate the need for parents of children with disabilities to be income tested for eligibility for such additional services;
- provide for accountability on the part of licensed early childhood centres for funded programs; and
- encourage communication among parents, centre staff, and other professionals involved in working with the child.

A diagnosis is not required for Special Needs Funding; the centre submits an application and provides details explaining why they are requesting funding to support the inclusion of the child or children. Funding is specific to the individual child, but may also be available for a child care program overall to include children with special needs, rather than being allocated to specific children.

All types of licensed child care are eligible to receive funding support; however, it is limited by budgetary constraints.

Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IB) service is available in centres for children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The service has a waitlist based on available caseload spaces.

For purposes of the Special Needs Grant, a child with special needs is defined as one who is under the age of 12 years, and in order to attain the usual developmental goals, requires additional and/or specific types of stimulation/care.

A diagnosis is required to be eligible for the Early Years Autism Funding.

There are no child care programs solely or primarily for children with special needs.

Early Years Centres are required to accept and include children with special needs and are required to be accessible.

All licensed centres are required to follow ratios and infant group size as defined in the *Early Learning and Child Care Act*. There are no additional requirements for children with special needs.

Centres may apply for a Special Needs Grant on behalf of a child to cover staff to support the child plus mandatory employment-related costs. The role of these grants is to lower ratios to allow for successful inclusion in early childhood settings.

Staff who work as special needs assistants can be paid on the Special Needs wage grid if certified as an early childhood educator.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE ON RESERVES AND ON INUIT LANDS

Licensed child care centres on reserve are eligible to receive the same funding as other provincially licensed centres, including operating grants, inclusion funding and parent fee subsidies.

Prince Edward Island has two licensed early childhood centres in Indigenous communities on reserve, each of which includes an Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR).

Both centres hold Early Years Centre designation and are funded by the province. These spaces are included in the overall provincial space statistics.

AHSOR programs, of which there are two in PEI, are licensed by invitation.

Number of licensed spaces on reserve	
Infants	12
Toddlers	20
Preschool-age	53
Total licensed spaces	85

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE OTHER THAN ON RESERVE

There is one licensed Indigenous-focused child care centre not on reserve. Previously licensed as a 12 space part-day preschool, it became a full-day centre in May 2021, but still operated part-time until June 2022. It became a designated Early Years Centre with infant, toddler and preschool-age spaces in September 2022 and includes an Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) part-day component.

AHSUNC programs have not been licensed in PEI.

OTHER INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC RESOURCES/ INITIATIVES

The Prince Edward Island Early Learning Framework is undergoing revisions, which will include a focus on the principles of Truth and Reconciliation, ensuring they are woven into the document.

The Native Council of PEI is represented on the Minister's Early Years Committee, which provides expert knowledge, guidance, and direction to the implementation of PEI's ELCC system.

The Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre supports off-reserve families in PEI to "Foster the Strength, Pride and Respect of Aboriginal Children and Families." Programs include special playgroups and outings, children's programming, Aboriginal Head Start, Early Years Centre, and parent support.

SPACE STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REGULATED SPACES (March 31, 2021)

Centre spaces	
<i>Full-day centres (Early Childhood Centres)</i>	
Designated Early Years Centres	2,687
Infants (0 - < 22 months)	362
Toddlers (22 months - < 3 years)	592
Preschool-age (3 - 5 years)	1,733
Non-designated centres	1,032
Infant (< 22 months)	72
Toddlers (22 months - < 3 years)	166
Preschool-age (3 - 5 years)	794
<i>Part-day centres</i>	
Preschool-age (3 - 5 years)	206
TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 - 5 years)	3,925

Before- and after-school care (licensed, regulated, approved or authorized)	
<i>Total number of spaces in before- and after-school care for children in kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6</i>	2,439
TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 12 years)	6,364
Regulated family child care (enrolment)	
<i>Family home centres</i>	
Full-day (children not attending school)	27
Part-day (children attending school)	2
<i>Total regulated family child care spaces (enrolment)</i>	29
TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centres spaces and family child care enrolment)	6,393
Number of child care centres (2021)	
<i>Total number of centres</i>	150
<i>Centre-based programs</i>	
Number of designated Early Years Centres (full-day)	54
Number of centres other than EYC providing a full-day program	24
Number of preschool centres (part-day)	11
Number of school-age centres (approximately 5 – 12 years)	61
Number of centres providing infant care (< 22 months)	67
Number of centres providing toddler care (22 months – < 3 years)	73
Number of centres providing preschool-age care (3 – 5 years)	89
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the province/territory)	9
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools	21
<i>Note: For a definition of non-standard hours care in Prince Edward Island, see Non-standard work and child care in Canada (pg. 89).</i>	
Number of regulated family home centres (active)	4
Municipal delivery	
Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres	2
<i>Note: The municipality of Cornwall operates an Early Years Centre and Kinkora operates a school-age centre.</i>	

Centres by auspice (2021)				
<i>Number of centres</i>				
For-profit				87
Non-profit				59
Publicly operated ³				4
<i>Note: Two municipalities, two First Nations on reserve.</i>				
Centre spaces by auspice				
	<i>Full-day spaces</i>	<i>Part-day spaces¹</i>	<i>BASC spaces²</i>	<i>Total spaces</i>
For-profit	2,591	40	1,357	3,988
Non-profit	1,053	166	977	2,196
Publicly operated ³	130	0	50	180
Total spaces	3,744	206	2,384	6,364
1 Nursery/preschool part-day spaces				
2 Before- and after-school care (4 – 13 years) spaces				
3 Municipality/municipal entity, school authority, other government agency or Indigenous governance organization				
<i>For a profile of child care auspice in Prince Edward Island, see Risky Business.</i>				

FEE SUBSIDIES

Children receiving subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care (March 31, 2021)

Full subsidy	938
Partial subsidy	234

TOTAL CHILDREN RECEIVING FEE SUBSIDIES 1,172

SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITY SUPPORT FUNDING

Children in licensed, regulated, or approved child care being supported by special needs/disability support funding (March 31, 2021) *Not available*

For a list of all licensed child care programs and services in Prince Edward Island, see this [directory](#).

ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Enrolment in centres (on March 31, 2021)

Full-day centres (Early Childhood Centres)

Designated Early Years Centres

Infant (0 – < 22 months)	325
Toddler (22 months – < 3 years)	581
Preschool-age (3 – 5 years)	1,533

Centres – not designated EYCs

Infant (< 22 months)	69
Toddler (22 months – < 3 years)	123
Preschool-age (3 – 5 years)	467

Part-day centres

Preschool-age (3 – 5 years)	96
-----------------------------	----

TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT (0 – 5 years) 3,194

Before- and after-school care (licensed, regulated, approved or authorized)

Total number of children in kindergarten and

Grades 1 – 6 enrolled in before-and after-school care 1,321

Note: 206 school-age children were enrolled in either an EYC or non-designated full-day centre.

TOTAL CENTRE ENROLMENT (0 – 12 years) 4,515

Note: Not all centres were operational in March 2021.

PARENT FEES

In Prince Edward Island, parent fees are provincially set for centres with Early Years Centre (EYC) designation.

In non-EYC programs, school-age programs and family child care, operators set their own rates.

As of [January 1, 2022](#), provincially set parent fees regardless of child's age in designated Early Years Centres were reduced to \$25 per day from the previous set fees of \$27 to \$34 per day, which varied by the child's age. The fee reduction at EYCs centres is funded through the [Canada – Prince Edward Island Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#) and now applies to both infants and preschool-age children.

Operators of non-designated (non-EYC) early childhood centres can apply for a grant to support a reduction in parent fees (reduction of up to \$9/day for infants, \$3/day for toddlers and \$2/day for preschool aged children).

As of October 2022, the maximum fee in the more publicly managed EYC system was further reduced to \$20/day.

An average 50% reduction of parent's child care costs (out-of-pocket costs) by December 2022 was achieved through a combination of reduction in set fees, expansion of the child care subsidy program and introduction of the publicly funded pre-kindergarten program.

PROVINCIAL DATA ON AVERAGE FEES

Daily provincially set parent fees in designated Early Years Centres (2021 – 2022)

Age group	Full-time set daily fee			
	2021	2022 ¹	2022 ²	TBD ³
1 – 22 months	\$34	\$25	\$20	\$15
22 months – 3 years	\$28	\$25	\$20	\$15
3 years – school entry	\$27	\$25	\$20	\$15

¹ January 2022 fee

² October 2022 fee

³ Anticipated fee

Median parent fees in non-Early Years Centres and family child care

Age group	Full-time average fee	
	2021	2022
1 – 22 months	\$36	\$27
22 months – 3 years	\$29	\$27
3 years	\$28	\$26
4 years ¹	\$15/\$29	\$13/\$27
School-age (full-day)	\$30	\$30
Before- and after-school	\$15	\$15

Family home centres

Infant	\$32	\$25
Toddler	\$28	\$25
Preschool	\$26	\$25
School-age (school is in session)	\$11	\$11

¹ Between September and June the fee for four-year-olds is reduced by \$14/day to reflect the no-parent fee universal pre-kindergarten program.

Median monthly fees in Prince Edward Island: Annual Fee Survey

In 2021, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included Charlottetown:

Median monthly fees for full-time child care

Infant	Toddler	Preschooler
\$738	\$608	\$586

Source: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2022). *Game Changer: Will provinces and territories meet the new federal child care fee targets? Canadian child care fees 2021*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre-based child care and regulated family child care.

WORKFORCE

EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION

Prince Edward Island has a provincial system of certification of early childhood educators. A nine member appointed Early Learning and Child Care Board is responsible for certification of child care staff.

There are eight levels of provincial certification. A person may hold more than one certification level.

Early childhood educator 1

- 30-hour course in each of the following areas: child growth and development, child guidance and early childhood pedagogy.

Early childhood educator 2

- One-year certificate in ECE

Early childhood educator 3

- Two-year diploma or a degree in ECE

Early childhood supervisor

- Two-year diploma in ECE or a degree in child and family studies including credit for a two-year diploma in ECE; and
- 3,900 hours of providing services to children while holding the required certificate.

Early childhood director

- A degree in ECE;
- A degree in child and family studies including credit for a two-year diploma in ECE; or
- One-year certificate in ECE and a degree deemed by the Board to be related to ECE.
- 9,750 hours of experience providing services to children at an early childhood centre or preschool centre, a Type I facility (under the former *Act*) or equivalent .

Family home child care provider

- 30-hour course related to the care and education of infants and preschoolers.

Inclusion support assistant

- One-year certificate program or two-year diploma in early years studies, early childhood education or human services.

School-age child care provider

- 30-hour course related to the care and education of school-age children.

Note: In December 2022, certification levels were under review.

To renew a certificate, individuals (except family child care providers or school-age child care providers) must complete 45 hours of continuing education every three-year period. A criminal record check and vulnerable sector search are required to renew a certificate.

To apply for ECE supervisor or director certification, a letter from a supervisor/employer verifying the applicant's work experience, including position, hours per week, and dates of employment is also required.

STAFF WAGES

Designated Early Years Centres are required to pay staff wages and benefits according to a province-wide salary scale.

From 2019 to 2022, there were two wage increases for early childhood educators. The tables below provide further details.

In [October 2020](#), hourly wages were increased by \$0.50 for ECE 1, \$1 for ECE 2, \$1.50 for ECE 3, and \$1 for special needs and autism assistants

In [October 2021](#), hourly wages were increased again by an additional \$1 for ECE 1, \$2 for ECE 2, \$4 for ECE 3. Incremental wage increases were added for directors based on years of experience after meeting requirements of Director certification. Wages of special needs and autism assistants were aligned to the provincial wage grid.

Provincially set hourly wage grid in Early Years Centres – Effective October 2021

Position/ education	Experience after certification				
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Director – Post diploma/degree	\$30.35	\$31.08	\$31.83	\$32.38	\$33.37
ECE Level 3 – 2 year diploma	\$24.11	\$24.58	\$25.05	\$25.54	\$26.00
ECE Level 2 – 1 year certificate	\$19.05	\$19.47	\$19.91	\$20.35	\$20.78
ECE Level 1 – 3 x 30 hr ECE courses	\$15.98	\$16.36	\$16.74	\$17.14	\$17.55
Cook	\$14.50				
Uncertified	\$13.25				
Support staff	Minimum wage				

**Provincially set hourly wage grid in Early Years Centres
– Effective October 2022**

Position/ education	Experience after certification (years)				
	1 or less	2	3	4	> 5
Director – Post diploma/degree	\$33.35	\$34.08	\$34.83	\$35.38	\$36.37
ECE Level 3 – 2-year diploma	\$27.11	\$27.58	\$28.05	\$28.54	\$29.00
ECE Level 2 – 1-year certificate	\$20.55	\$20.97	\$21.41	\$21.85	\$22.28
ECE Level 1 – 3 x 30-hr ECE courses	\$16.73	\$17.11	\$17.49	\$17.89	\$18.30
Cook	\$15.25				
Uncertified	Minimum wage				
Support staff	Minimum wage				

Note: Staff must have completed the education level required and have become certified by the Early Learning and Child Care Board in order to start the associated pay band.

Note: Support staff are funded at the minimum wage rate, which is subject to change.

PEI does not currently require the use of the provincial wage grid in centres without Early Years Centre designation.

A Registered Retirement Program is in development by the provincial government in partnership with the Early Childhood Development Association of PEI to be implemented in 2022 – 2023

In Fall 2021 a one-time retention grant was provided to recognize years of service.

Further development and implementation of a province-wide wage grid will be funded through the [Canada-Prince Edward Island Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

Average wages in non-EYCs Not available

Median annual employment income (\$) and median hourly wage range (\$) for Early Childhood Educators and Assistants working in day care services full time, full-year

Median annual employment income	\$34,000
Median hourly employment income	\$16.35 – 18.68

Note: Calculated using 2,080 hours/year (40 hours/week) and 1,820 hours/year (35 hours/week).

Source: Canadian Census (2021). Special run by Statistics Canada.

Note: These data include Early Childhood Educators and Assistants, as defined in NOC 4214 and “working in the day care services industry in centre-based environments with children aged 0 – 12 years”, as defined in NAICS 6244. Included are individuals who worked full-time (30+ hours/week) and full-year (48+ weeks/year), did not work at home, and were not self-employed. Included are supervisors but not managers. Employment income refers to income from all jobs if the Early Childhood Educator or Assistant holds a second job providing a wage, salary or commissions.

Note: See Table 18 in this report for comparable data from other provinces/territories and Canada average.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

Child care centres are regulated under the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) and [Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations](#).

Ratios and group sizes

Maximum centre size: 80 spaces

Staff:child ratios and maximum group size

Age of child	Staff:child ratio		Maximum group size
	Indoor	Outdoor	
< 22 months	1:3	1:3	6
22 months – 3 years	1:5	1:7	None
3 years – school entry	1:10	1:15	None
School-age (1st day of to the end of elementary)	1:15	1:22	None

Note: If the group also includes preschool-age or school-age children, the maximum group size for infants may exceed six for up to 25% of the time the infants are receiving care.

Staffing requirements for centres

Early childhood qualification requirements for staffing a centre

In PEI, staff qualification requirements are specified by centre, not by group or room.

An early childhood centre or preschool centre must have at least one staff member that holds early childhood supervisor or early childhood director certification. If additional staff are required to meet staff:child ratio, there must also be one staff member with a minimum ECE Level 2 certification.

A school-age centre must have at least one staff member with school-age child care provider or an ECE Level 1 certification, and one other certificate holder (of any level) if additional staff are required.

Designated Early Years Centres must meet all the requirements of an Early Childhood Centre. In addition, all staff except support staff must have at least ECE Level 1 certification, or be enrolled in courses to obtain ECE Level 1 certification. All certified staff must be a member of, and participate in, a professional organization, building skills, knowledge, and awareness in the community of the importance of early learning and child care.

Exemption to early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff

The Board may exempt a licensed operator from a staffing requirement for a specified period of time if the Board is satisfied that the operator was unable to hire required certified staff and has a reasonable plan to meet the staffing requirements within a specified time.

In the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year, eight school-age centres and one Early Childhood Centre were granted exemptions.

Requirements for a supervisor/director of an early childhood centre and preschool centre

Early childhood qualifications for centre supervisors
There must be an early childhood supervisor or early childhood director responsible for the day-to-day operations at a preschool centre or an early childhood centre.

Exemption to early childhood qualification requirements for centre supervisor

In the absence of a centre supervisor or director, the person who is their temporary replacement must have at least ECE Level 2 certification. A supervisor or director must not be absent for more than four consecutive weeks without identifying a temporary replacement.

In 2021 – 2022 two centres had exemptions for on-site directors/supervisors.

Other requirements

Every staff member must:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- provide a criminal record check;
- have a vulnerable sector search within eight weeks of employment (and have no unsupervised access to children without CRC/VSS); and
- have emergency first aid certification.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement of regulated child care centres

The Early Learning and Child Care Board is responsible for licensing and licence renewal of child care programs based on the requirements specified in the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#). The Board is also responsible for monitoring and investigating complaints.

A licence is issued for a term of three years.

Centres are inspected upon licensing and subsequently within a 12 month period, or more frequently if there has been a complaint or an unsatisfactory inspection. Facilities are also inspected if there is a modification to the licence or a licence transfer.

If children are in imminent danger, a senior inspector may suspend a licence for up to seven days, to allow time to convene the Early learning and Child Care Board for a decision.

For more information on licensing see [Licence Application Guidelines](#) or visit the [Early Childhood Centre Licensing](#) website.

Initiatives regarding assessing and improving quality

Several quality improvement initiatives were being carried out by PEI government staff in 2022:

- **Early Childhood Coaches** – These seven English/one Bilingual coaches provide leadership to the early learning and child care sector to enhance the quality of experiences for children and families, through mentorship and coaching with the aim of strengthening early childhood pedagogy practices. Specifically, they are responsible to consult with Early Years Centres, publicly funded pre-kindergarten and Bridging Centres to enhance their understanding and implementation of the PEI Early Learning Framework while monitoring compliance with the Early Years Centre Criteria.

- **Early Childhood Inclusion Consultants** – These two new positions provide leadership in inclusion in all licensed early learning and child-care centres. The inclusion consultants aim to enrich the early learning and child care experiences for all children with disabilities and children needing enhanced or individual supports. This is accomplished through mentorship and coaching practices grounded in inclusion principles, with the aim of strengthening early childhood pedagogy practices.
- **English/French as an Additional Language Consultant** – This new position provides leadership to the early learning and child-care system to enhance the quality of experiences for children and families for whom English or French is not a first language in all licensed early learning and child care centres.

Program Assessment Tool

The Program Assessment Tool (PAT) is a companion curriculum document to the Prince Edward Island Early Learning Framework.

It is a systematic observation framework that complements and strengthens ongoing reflective practice and continuous quality improvement of the early learning environment through indicators of *Relationships, Environments and Experiences* in the early childhood settings. It is designed to encourage a formalized process for reflective practice within PEI Early Years Centres while supporting their growth as a community of learners and encourages educators and centre directors to share and discuss their reflections with each other to support pedagogical practice.

Directors and Coaches collaborate to gather information from:

- observations of the physical environment indoors and out;
- available pedagogical documentation;
- observations of interactions between and among educators, children and families; and
- conversations with children, educators and families.

Following the observations, the Coach and Director collaborate to provide feedback to the educators within the rooms. This is intended to lead to the development of goals for team action plans. These team plans, along with other elements of reflective practice, will inform the Centre Action Plan.

Professional Learning Initiatives

Our Village – Notre Village: Promoting Early Childhood ArtsSmarts Learning Experiences

This project invites early childhood centres to broaden arts and cultural learning experiences and offers the tools, materials and engagement supports to reach out to our Island community.

Modelled after [ArtsSmarts](#) and an extension of Total Smarts, Phase 1 of this initiative was implemented between February and April 2022. Thirty ELCC programs engaged in online sessions with musicians, puppeteers and watercolor artists and were provided access to a video by the artists to share with the children and support the educators in engaging the children in the experience.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

In Prince Edward Island, regulated family child care homes are called family home centres. Family child care is licensed under the [Early Learning and Child Care Act](#) and [Early Learning and Child Care Act Regulations](#).

Family child care must be provided in the provider’s personal residence.

Model of organization

Family child care in PEI is individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

A family child care provider can care for a maximum of eight children, aged infant to school-age, including the operator’s own child(ren), given the following ratios:

Maximum capacity in family homes

Age of child	Indoor ratio	Outdoor ratio
< 22 months	1:3	1:3
22 months – 3 years	1:5	1:7
Over 3 years – school entry	1:10	1:15
School-age	1:15	1:22

A licensed home may have more than one caregiver to meet ratios. Thus, a licensed family child care home could have three infants and five toddlers if there are two caregivers in the home.

Even with two caregivers in the home, the maximum number of children allowed is still eight.

Family child care home provider requirements

A home must be staffed with at least one certified family home child care provider with ECE Level 1 or higher. School-age child care certification is not applicable in family child care.

There is no ongoing training requirement if the provider holds family home child care provider certification. However, if the provider is a certified ECE, 45 hours of continuing education during every three year period is required to maintain certification.

The provider and any additional staff must be at least 18 years of age, provide a criminal record check and a vulnerable sector search within eight weeks of operating/employment, and hold first aid certification.

A criminal background check and vulnerable sector search is also required for any adult who lives in the home, and any other associated person.

Supports for family child care

Family child care providers are eligible for support through visits from the [Early Childhood Resource](#) team.

Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement

Licensed family homes follow the same inspection, monitoring, and enforcement procedures as licensed centres.

For more information, visit the [Apply for a family home centre licence](#) website.

■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

All licensed child care centres (EYC and non-EYC) and homes are eligible for child care fee subsidy, special needs funding, capital and autism funding.

Only Early Years Centres are eligible for operational funding.

As of January 1, 2023, Family Home Centres became eligible for a Family Home Centre Operating Grant.

TYPES OF FUNDING

FEE SUBSIDIES

The [Child Care Subsidy Program](#) (CCSP), administered by the Department of Social Development and Housing, pays all or some of the child care fees of eligible families for children up to and including 12 year olds. Payment is made directly to child care service providers on behalf of subsidized parents.

All eligible families are entitled to a fee subsidy. There is no waitlist for a subsidy.

Eligibility Criteria

Parents must demonstrate a need for child care, which includes:

- employment, training or education;
- medical needs of a parent;
- diagnosed special needs of a child;
- a child in need of protection; and
- a child in the Enhanced Early Learning Childcare Subsidy program.

In addition, a parent must be:

- a resident of Prince Edward Island;
- lawfully entitled to be in or to remain in Canada with a permanent residency status;
- parent to a child age 12 years or younger; and
- has combined assets less than \$100,000 (excluding personal residence and vehicle).

Financial eligibility (2021)

Income eligibility and calculation are based on family annual net income, less eligible deductions.

In addition, if families have combined assets that exceed \$100,000, excluding their personal residence and vehicle, registered Education Savings Plan, Registered Disability Savings Plan, or life insurance with a cash surrender value of less than \$5,000, they are expected to liquidate assets to meet the cost of child care.

The [Child Care Subsidy Calculator](#) helps families determine their financial eligibility for a subsidy and get an estimate of their expected family/parental contribution toward child care costs.

Financial eligibility for fee subsidy (2021)

	Maximum net income for full subsidy	Income at which partial subsidy ends
One parent, one child	\$30,000	\$41,800
Two parents, two children	\$38,500	\$59,100

Note: Parents receiving Social Assistance (SA) or Assured Income (AI) are eligible for a full subsidy.

Service providers' eligibility to deliver subsidized child care

Child care subsidies can be used in licensed early childhood centres (early learning and child care centres, including operationally funded Early Years Centres), school-age centres and family child care homes.

Surcharges above the fee subsidy

Designated Early Years Centres are required to set daily fees, whereas non-Early Years Centres and homes are not. Family Home Centres receiving the Operational Grant are required to set provincial daily fees.

Fully subsidized parents in EYCs cannot be charged for child care. Partially subsidized parents cannot be charged more than their assessed fee.

In non-EYCs, fees are not capped; parent fees may be higher than the subsidy for which the family is eligible, in which case, families are responsible for paying the remainder of the fee.

This includes parents receiving Social Assistance (SA) or Assured Income (AI), who are eligible for a full subsidy. Where child care fees are above the maximum subsidy rate, the applicant is responsible for the additional costs.

Subsidy rates

The maximum subsidy rate is the amount the government pays a centre or licensed family home on behalf of a fully subsidized parent to cover all or part of the parent fee.

Maximum daily subsidy rate for regulated child care (2021)

Age group	Daily subsidy rate
Infants (0 – < 22 months)	\$34
2 years	\$28
3 – 4 years	\$27
School-age: Full-day	\$30
School-age: Before- and after-school	\$15

Note: As of January 1, 2022, the maximum subsidy rates were changed to reflect the reduction in maximum fees in Early Years Centres.

Maximum daily subsidy rate for regulated child care (2022)

Age group	Daily subsidy rate
Birth to school entry	\$25
School-age: full-day	\$30
School-age: part-day	\$15

Note: As of October 1, 2022 the maximum daily subsidy rate in an EYC is \$20/day.

For further information on the subsidy program see: [PEI Child Care Subsidy Program](#).

Enhanced Early Learning and Child Care Subsidy

In 2018, an Enhanced Early Learning and Child Care Subsidy was introduced, as part of the Canada-Prince Edward Island Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework) (2017). The enhanced component of the program increased access to a subsidy for children from families who are more vulnerable and who previously did not meet requirements to qualify under the Child Care Subsidy Program.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING

Early Years Centre funding

Early Years Centres receive operational (base) funding on a quarterly basis. The funding is based on a formula that includes staff wages according to the province-wide mandatory wage scale, benefits and operating costs, minus 90% of the provincially set parent fees (including child care subsidy where it replaces the parent fee).

Early Years Centres must use the fees set by the province and the province-wide salary grid, as well as meeting other requirements.

Family Home Centre Operational Grant

As of April 1, 2022, this grant provided funding to licensed Family Home Centres to a maximum of \$15,000:

- to reduce fees (to \$25/day between April-September 2022, and to \$20/day as of October 2022);
 - for professional support, such as raise wages or payment of professional development fees; and
 - for materials, equipment or supplies.
-

Quality Enhancement Grant

Provides all licensed, non-EYC designated early childhood centres, preschool centres and family home centres with additional financial support to enhance the quality of their programs. Freestanding school-age centres receive the Quality Enhancement if they were receiving this grant as of March 31, 2013, and continue to apply and provide accountability documentation.

Increases in October 2020 and again in October 2021 were added to the operating grants for early childhood centres, preschool centres and family homes to be utilized towards staff wages.

Special Needs Grant

The [Special Needs Grant](#) provides funding for additional staff to support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care centres. Funding is approved and provided directly to the centre on a quarterly basis at the maximum amount of \$14.75 per hour of service.

As of October 1, 2022, a new wage enhancement grant funds Special Needs Assistants according to the Special Needs Wage grid if they hold ECE certification (through the Canada Wide Agreement). Funding covers a maximum of eight hours per day to a maximum of 40 hours per week.

Autism funding (preschool-age and school-age)

PEI has two categories of [Autism funding](#) to support children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in licensed child care.

Preschool autism funding

Preschool autism funding is available to help families and licensed early childhood centres to hire an Autism Assistant for children receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention support for eligible preschool-age children with a diagnosed autism spectrum disorder, who are enrolled in the Early Years Autism Service.

It may be provided to help offset Autism Assistant wages and benefits to a maximum amount of \$14.75 per hour of service, up to 25 hours per week. As of October 1, 2022, a new wage enhancement grant funds Autism Assistants according to the Autism Assistant Wage grid if they hold ECE certification.

School-age autism funding

School-age autism funding is available to help families and designated community-based organizations to help offset the costs of hiring one-on-one tutors and aides in home and group settings, including early childhood centres, for school-age children with a diagnosed autism spectrum disorder. The child must require the support of an adult to access community-based activities and/or tutoring outside of school hours.

School-age autism funding may cover up to \$6,600 in tutor/aide services per year.

Alternate Hours Demonstration Site Grant

The [Alternate Hours Demonstration Site Grant](#) helps licensed early childhood centres to extend their hours of operation for children whose parents work non-standard hours and/or seasonally.

Licensed early childhood centres (including Early Years Centres, preschool centres and family home centres) are eligible for this program. The grant covers wages and related costs to a maximum of the rate paid at the ECE Level 3.

As of September 2018, eligible providers may apply for the Alternate Hours Demonstration Site Grant to extend their licensed hours of operation to any time between 5:00 am – 9:00 pm, Sunday to Saturday weekly.

The program is undergoing a review in 2022 – 2023 and the grant was not open to new applicants at the end of 2022.

The provincial government plans to consult with demonstration EYCs in 2022 – 2023 to explore solutions for the delivery of alternative hour care for non-standard work hours or seasonal hours.

ONE-TIME FUNDING

Bridge Funding

For licensed centres that wish to receive Early Years Centre designation, funding is provided for financial, resource and coaching support in preparation to meet the designation criteria:

- *Wage Enhancement:* A staff bonus for those paid below the provincial wage grid, or to be used to subsidize the centre staffing costs for those who pay to the grid. It was available in 2020 – 2021 fiscal and again in 2021 – 2022;

- *Capital/Operational Grant*: Funding of up to \$30,000 per centre available to support costs associated with renovations or purchase of materials and supplies; and
- *Early Childhood Coaching Support* to align programming with the Early Learning Framework curriculum goals and objectives and to develop a centre action plan.

Early Childhood Education Training Grant

The [Early Childhood Education Training Grant](#) covers 100% of the cost for an eligible course at [post-secondary institutions](#) approved by the Early Learning and Child Care Board. As of October 2021, applicants may receive a maximum of \$2,500/year, subject to the availability of funds.

Permanent, casual, part-time and temporary employees of licensed early childhood centres (EYCs and non-EYCs), preschool centres and family home child care providers are eligible to receive funding under this program.

One-time Retention Grant

The one-time ELCC Retention Grant was made available in 2021 to those working in the licensed ELCC System for 12 consecutive months or more. It was paid in two installments and payments were based on full or part-time hours of employment and increments were based on years of experience in the PEI licensed ELCC system.

Family Home Centre Incentive Grant

A one-time grant of \$3,000 upon licensing as a Family Home Centre.

Family Home Centre Capital Grant

Provides licensed Family Home Centres up to \$25,000, under the following categories:

- Capital Improvements of up to \$15,000 towards the modification of the recipient’s existing physical space to meet licensing requirements;
 - Infant Programming Incentive of up to \$5,000 towards items such as cribs, change-tables, rocking chairs, toys, books, strollers, etc.; and
 - Family Home Centre Program Improvements of up to \$5,000 for items such as chairs, tables, play equipment and preschool age toys.
-

OTHER ELCC FUNDING

Early Childhood Development Association

The PEI government provides funding to the Early Childhood Development Association to support the following activities:

- recruitment and retention initiatives;
- providing PD training programs and “Onboarding tool kit” to enhance provisions of quality support to new educators; and
- maintaining the Early Learning and Child Care Registry.

Return to the ECE Profession Grants

A one-time grant to support the return of qualified educators into centres working with infants to school-age children. Educators must have worked outside the licenced early learning and child care system for 24 consecutive months prior to returning; be certified at ECE Level 3 and provide a letter from current employer verifying start date and a minimum of a two year contract. This grant was made available in March 2022 and is available again in 2022 – 2023.

Innovative Practice Grant

For centres to explore non-monetary initiatives to enhance retention. This grant was made available March 2022 and again in 2022 – 2023.

PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2020 – 2021)

TOTAL FEE SUBSIDIES \$4,646,000

OPERATIONAL (PREVIOUSLY RECURRING) FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Early Years Centres	\$17,492,500
Quality Enhancement Grant	\$835,500
Special Need Grant	\$2,292,000
Autism Services	
(preschool-age and school-age)	\$2,153,000
Alternate Hours Demonstration Site Grant	\$200,000

Total operational funding \$22,973,000

ONE-TIME FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
One-time funding – capital (major and minor)	\$0
One-time funding – other	
Childcare Education Grant	\$146,000

Total one-time funding \$146,000

TOTAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

(fee subsidies, operational funding and one-time funding) \$27,765,000

OTHER ELCC FUNDING

Definition: “Other” ELCC funding may include contributions to an early childhood association, research, evaluation, funds for unregulated child care, and pilot projects that do not fall into another category.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Home visiting program	\$1,371,100
Early Childhood Development Association	\$185,000

FEDERAL TRANSFERS TO PROVINCE

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care	
Bilateral Agreements	\$3,568,090
Safe Restart Agreement	
(child care specific funding)	\$4,504,000

OF INTEREST

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES

[Family resource centres](#) offer programs and resources for children and families. These include parent education and support groups, parent resources, prenatal nutrition programs, drop-in play, toy-lending libraries, and outreach for smaller Island communities.

There are eight family resource centres in Prince Edward Island funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada.

PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

[Early Childhood Development Association of Prince Edward Island](#)

[Minister’s Advisory Committee on Lifelong Learning](#)