

Quebec



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Quebec



■ OVERVIEW

In Quebec, early learning and child care includes kindergarten, regulated child care centres, which includes centres de la petite enfance (CPEs) and garderies (for-profit day care centres), school-age child care (services de garde en milieu scolaire), family child care (service de garde en milieu familial reconnu), and nursery schools (jardins d'enfants).

The Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) is responsible for kindergarten under the [Education Act](#). Full-school day kindergarten is a legislated entitlement for all five-year-olds. Four-year-old kindergarten is currently being phased in with a commitment to 2,600 classes by 2025 – 2026. Kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is referred to as the preschool cycle. Schools in First Nations communities are funded by Indigenous Services Canada.

The Ministère de la Famille is primarily responsible for child care for preschool-aged children, while MEES takes responsibility for out-of-school hours child care. Programs for preschool-aged children are licensed under the [Educational Childcare Act](#) and the [Educational Childcare Regulation](#). Programs are delivered by non-profit and for-profit operators. CPEs are non-profit, while garderies both funded and unfunded are usually for-profit. Other than Indigenous child care on reserves and Inuit lands, there is no publicly delivered full-day child care.

Quebec licenses all full-day child care centres on First Nations reserves and Inuit lands; there were 66 centres and two family child care agencies on reserves and Inuit lands in 2021. In 2021, there were also nine Indigenous-led or focused full-day child care centres and one family child care agency operating in communities other than reserves or Inuit land.

Parent fees at funded child care services (CPEs and funded garderies) have been set by the province since 2000, when they were \$5 a day. Unfunded garderies set their own daily rates. A tax credit for parents using unfunded garderies is available. Quebec has not used individual parent fee subsidies for some years. Some Quebec parents, including social assistance recipients, pay no fees when they use publicly funded child care.

In 2018, Quebec signed the Asymmetrical Agreement – Early Learning and Child Care Component. Under this agreement, Quebec will continue to develop its own child care system. It allocated \$262 million over three years 2017 – 2020 and an estimated total of \$1.2 billion between 2017 and 2028.

Quebec signed the 2021 – 2026 Asymmetrical Agreement (Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Component) in August 2021. Like the previous ELCC agreements, Quebec will use the funding to continue to develop its own child care system. This agreement allocated \$5.96 billion over five years.

The Canada-wide agreement does not replace but runs parallel to the previously existing asymmetrical 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	76,400
1	81,200
2	74,900
3	82,600
4	85,300
5	100,300
6	82,300
7	97,500
8	93,600
9	95,900
10	93,300
11	96,500
12	91,000
Total	1,150,800

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

Age	Number of children (2021)
0 – 2	232,500
3 – 5	268,200
6 – 12	650,100
Total	1,150,800

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0	55,100
1	55,700
2	55,900
3	59,100
4	59,000
5	72,700
6	61,600
7	72,000
8	69,400
9	70,200
10	68,900
11	70,200
12	63,900
Total	833,500

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0 – 2	166,700
3 – 5	190,800
6 – 12	476,200
Total	833,500

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	7,075	3,265	1,965	215	460
5 – 9	8,105	3,810	1,740	205	445
10 – 14	9,040	4,295	1,720	240	530
Total	24,220	11,370	5,425	660	1,435

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	195,000	81.0
4 – 5	84,000	85.8
0 – 5	279,000	82.4
6 – 12	244,600	87.3

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	365,185	53,765	43,155	10,615
5 – 9	374,500	99,175	73,075	26,105
10 – 14	358,790	123,610	89,780	33,835

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	41,795	321,235	36,795	22,955
5 – 9	47,860	369,050	34,625	27,240
10 – 14	49,570	377,360	33,655	28,335
Total	139,225	1,067,650	105,075	78,525

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

Two-parent families

\$98,000

Male lone-parent

\$51,200

Female lone-parent

\$49,200

PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS

In 2006, the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) replaced the benefits available under the federal Employment Insurance (EI) plan and used by the rest of Canada.

Recent changes to QPIP were introduced under legislation introduced in 2019, [*Bill 51, An Act mainly to improve the flexibility of the parental insurance plan in order to promote family-work balance*](#).

QPIP, like EI, is a contributory program. Unlike the EI program, which pays leave benefits while leave provisions are set by each province and territory, QPIP determines both benefits and leave provisions. It stipulates that financial benefits are paid to all eligible workers – salaried or self-employed – who take maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, or adoption leave.

In 2022, Quebec parents could choose between two plans, the Basic Plan and the Special Plan. The choice of plan will cover all categories of leave taken for that birth or adoption – maternity, parental, paternity. The choice is determined by the first parent in the family to receive benefits and cannot be modified.

Self-employed new parents in Quebec are eligible for paid parental leave under the QPIP. Self-employed workers are automatically covered in QPIP and are eligible for leave once they have stopped working or seen a reduction of at least 40% of usual income.

As of January 1, 2022, single parents in Quebec receive an additional five weeks at 70% of wages under the Basic Plan, or an additional three weeks at 75% of wages under the Special Plan.

Other significant changes in QPIP between 2020 and 2022 include:

- new adoption benefits – an increase in the number of weeks;
- sharing of parental and adoption benefits – additional benefits with two parents sharing a minimum number of weeks of parental or adoption benefits;

- benefit for multiple births or adoptions - each parent is entitled to additional weeks; and
- of parental or adoption benefits, adding five weeks at 70% of wages for the Basic Plan or three weeks at 75% benefits for the Special Plan.

LEAVE AND BENEFIT PROVISIONS

Maternity leave

Maternity leave can be taken only by the birth parent and is not shareable.

Basic Plan: 18 weeks of maternity leave at 70% of wages

Special Plan: 15 weeks of maternity leave at 75% of wages.

Parental leave

The total number of weeks of parental benefits can be taken by either parent or shared. Parents may receive benefits simultaneously or consecutively. Natural and adoptive parents are eligible.

Basic Plan: 32 weeks of paid benefits, with the first seven weeks at 70% of wages, and the following 25 weeks at 55% of wages. As soon as eight weeks of shareable benefits have been paid to both parents, an additional four weeks of shareable benefits at 55% of wages becomes available.

Special Plan: 25 weeks of paid benefits at 75% of wages. As soon as six weeks of shareable benefits have been paid to both parents, an additional three weeks of shareable benefits at 75% of wages becomes available.

Paternity leave

Not shareable between two parents.

Basic Plan: Five weeks paid benefits at 70% of wages.

Special Plan: Three weeks paid benefits at 75% of wages.

Single parent leave

Single parent leave is not shareable.

Basic Plan: Five weeks paid benefits at 70% of wages.

Special Plan: Three weeks paid benefits at 75% of wages.

Adoption leave (Adoption-Related Welcome and Support benefits)

Basic Plan: Five weeks of non-shareable benefits to each parent at 70% of wages, followed by 13 weeks of shareable benefits at 70% of earnings.

Special Plan: Three weeks of non-shareable benefits to each parent at 75% of wages, followed by 12 weeks of shareable benefits at 75% of earnings.

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 section of this publication.

KINDERGARTEN

The Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MEES) is responsible for kindergarten under the *Education Act*. There are 60 French language school service centres (school authorities, previously called school boards), one special status school service centre (Centre de services scolaire du Littoral), and nine English language school boards. Since October 15, 2020, the school service centres in the French language school system have been governed by a board of directors composed of parents, members of the community and staff.

Full-school day kindergarten is a legislated entitlement for all five-year-olds. As of the 2020 – 2021 school year, full-school day four-year-old kindergarten, or maternelle quatre ans is being phased in in all communities with a commitment to 2,600 classes by 2025 – 2026. Kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds is referred to as the preschool cycle.

Indigenous people in Quebec are predominantly First Nations and Inuit. In addition to schools in some First Nations communities operated by the Chief and Councillors of the community, there are two “special-status school boards.” The Cree School Board is responsible for providing education, including kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds, to Eeyou Istchee (11 Cree communities in the James Bay region). Kativik Ilisarniliriniq acts as a regional school board for all Nunavik¹ residents and as an institution that aims to protect, maintain and develop the Inuit language, culture and way of life.

¹ Nunavik is the Inuit of Quebec's homeland and part of Inuit Nunangat.

Quebec regulates and funds eligible private schools including denominational schools at approximately 60% of the per pupil amount paid to public schools. Non-profit status is preferred but not required to be eligible for accreditation to receive public funding. All funded schools must meet the standards of the provincial system.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur
Direction de la formation générale des jeunes
Responsable du programme d'éducation préscolaire et des services de garde en milieu scolaire
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 17^e étage 1035, rue De La Chevrotière
Québec, QC, G1R 5A5
Telephone: (418) 644-5240 poste 2517
Website: <https://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/accueil/>

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Québec. National Assembly. *Education Act*. – CQLRYEAR C- I-13.3. Amended Bill 41 (2001, c. 30), Bill 35. (2001, c. 46), R.S.Q., C- I-14, C- E 9.1, Bill n°5 (2019, c. 24).

Québec. National Assembly. *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons*. R.S.Q., c. I-14.

Québec. National Assembly. *Act Respecting Private Schools*, Chapter E 9.1

Québec. National Assembly. *Bill n° 5: An Act to amend the Education Act and other provisions regarding pre-school education services for students 4 years of age* (2019, c. 24)



KINDERGARTEN FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLDS (MATERNELLE 5 ANS)

DEFINITION

Maternelle 5 ans (kindergarten for five-year-olds) is a full-school day program available in English and French in public and publicly funded private schools.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to attend maternelle 5 ans, children must be five years of age by September 30 of the school year.

COMPULSORY

Enrolment in maternelle 5 ans is not compulsory.

Compulsory schooling begins the year a child turns six years old or is in Grade 1.

ENTITLEMENT

All eligible children in Quebec are entitled to a maternelle 5 ans space.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY/ TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Maternelle 5 ans programs must provide 23.5 instructional hours per week for 36 weeks of the year or 846 instructional hours per year.

CLASS SIZE

Class sizes must not exceed a maximum of 19 students. In multi-age groups, the maximum number of students per group must not exceed 14 students.

In 2018 – 2019, the average maternelle 5 ans class size was 17 students.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Programme-cycle de l'éducation préscolaire \(2021\)](#) is the curriculum for maternelle in Quebec. All public and funded private schools must use it.

GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

Kindergarten teachers are required to complete a four-year degree: Baccalauréat en Éducation préscolaire et enseignement au primaire (Bachelor of Education – kindergarten and elementary education).

A provisional teaching licence may be issued to Individuals with a CEGEP diploma in early childhood education who are enrolled in a teacher education program if they have completed 9 credits in an accredited preschool and elementary school teacher education program, and have at least 3,000 hours of experience in an early childhood setting.

Teachers are required to take at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years.

KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS (MATERNELLE 4 ANS)

DEFINITION

Maternelle 4 ans (kindergarten for four-year-olds) is currently being phased in in schools across the province as a full-school day program.

All children in the appropriate age bracket are eligible for the program but it is currently only offered in some schools. The current commitment (2022) is to 2,600 classes by 2025 – 2026.

There were approximately 1,600 kindergarten classes for four-year-olds in 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to attend maternelle 4 ans, a child must be four years of age by September 30 of the school year.

COMPULSORY

Enrolment in maternelle 4 ans is not compulsory.

Compulsory schooling begins the year a child turns six years old or is in Grade 1.

ENTITLEMENT

Maternelle 4 ans is not a legislated entitlement.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY/ TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Maternelle 4 ans programs must provide from 9.15 hours/week for 36 weeks or 329 hours/year to 23.5 hours/week for 36 weeks or 846 hours/year.

CLASS SIZE

Class size in maternelle 4 ans is restricted to a maximum of 17 students.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Programme-cycle de l'éducation préscolaire \(2021\)](#) is the curriculum for maternelle 4 ans in Quebec. All public and funded private schools must use the curriculum.

GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

Maternelle 4 ans rooms are staffed by a full-time licensed teacher and a qualified education professional who is specialized in the development of preschool children. This professional could be, for example, a special education technician (technicienne/technicien en éducation spécialisée) or an early childhood educator and must be present for half of the class time as a support for the teacher.

PASSE-PARTOUT

Passe-Partout is a program overseen by MEES, targeting four-year-olds and their parents in low income families, primarily living in rural Quebec, to support the transition from home to school.

Passe-Partout has been offered for 40 years in 45 school boards.

According to a [2020 evaluation report](#), approximately 11,000 families participated in the program every year. However, as four-year-old kindergarten is expanding, Passe-Partout is diminishing.

In the 2020 – 2021 school year, 7,871 children were enrolled in Passe-Partout.

Passe-Partout consists of a minimum of 16 sessions a year with children, and eight with their parents. The preparation and facilitation of Passe-Partout sessions are carried out by preschool education consultants (conseiller/conseillère à l'éducation préscolaire). They must hold a bachelor's degree in psychology, education, social work, or psychoeducation.

According to the 2018 – 2019 budget, MEES granted school boards \$1,313 per registration to Passe-Partout. The total annual budget for the program was \$14 million.

For more information, see the program's organizational framework [Passe-partout: Un soutien à la compétence parentale](#).

TOTAL ENROLMENT (SCHOOL YEAR 2020 – 2021)

All schools (public, private and governmental).

Maternelle 4 ans (total)	20,418
Passe-partout	7,871
Maternelle part-time and multi-age	1,056
Maternelle 4 ans full-school day	11,491
Maternelle 5 ans full-school day	88,726
Total kindergarten enrolment (4- and 5-year olds)	109,144

Source : Enrolment in general education for young people by school according to various variables, school years (2020 – 2021) Québec.

FINANCIAL (SCHOOL YEAR 2020 – 2021)

Spending on maternelle 4 ans (total)	<i>Not available</i>
Spending on maternelle 4 ans (per child)	<i>Not available</i>
Spending on maternelle 5 ans (total)	<i>Not available</i>
Spending on maternelle 5 ans (per child)	<i>Not available</i>

CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

The responsibility for child care services is shared between the Ministère de la Famille and the Ministère de l'Éducation.

The Ministère de la Famille is responsible for child care for children from birth to kindergarten (age four or five, or until they are legally obliged to attend school at the age of six).

The Ministère de l'Éducation is responsible for the provision of child care outside regular school hours for 4 – 12 year olds in the morning before classes begin, at lunchtime and after school as well as during professional development days and during March break.

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Direction de l'encadrement du réseau et de la qualité des services des services
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Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction des encadrements pédagogiques et scolaires
1035, rue De La Chevrotière
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Téléphone : 418 643-7095
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Télécopieur : 418 646-6561

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Quebec. National Assembly. [Educational Childcare Act](#), CQLR c S-4.1.1.

Quebec. National Assembly. [Educational Childcare Regulation](#), CQLR c S-4.1.1, r. 2.

Quebec. National Assembly. [Education Act](#), CQLR c I-13.3

Quebec. National Assembly. [Reduced Contribution Regulation](#), CQLR c S-4.1.1, r. 1.

Quebec. National Assembly. [Regulation respecting child-care services provided at school](#), CQLR c I-13.3, s. 454.1.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated child care is termed “non-recognized” child care in Quebec. This includes individuals and organizations that are not required to be recognized by a Home Child Care Coordinating Office (i.e., non-recognized home child care providers) or to hold a permis (licence) issued by the Ministère de la Famille.

Unregulated family child care or non-recognized home child care

A person providing unregulated child care services in a private residence may care for a maximum of six children, including the provider’s children under nine years. No more than two children can be under the age of 18 months.

As of May 1, 2018, non-recognized home (unregulated) child care providers must meet additional conditions beyond the number of children. These conditions include:

- criminal background check (or verification that no impediment exists) for the provider and each adult living in the residence;
- valid first aid certificate specific to young children;
- has not been convicted of an offence for inappropriate conduct under section 6.2 of the *Educational Childcare Act* within the last two years;
- liability insurance of at least \$1 million; and
- parents’ fee paid directly to the person providing care.

Unregulated (non-recognized) child care is only monitored upon complaint.

Bill 1, [An Act to amend the Educational Child Care Act to improve access to the educational child care services network and complete its development](#), enacted in April 2022, makes non-recognized (unregulated) family child care mostly illegal as of September 2026. After this date, a person without a child care licence to provide family child care will be limited to a maximum of two children or to a family of more than two children (if they normally live together in the same home).

Nursery school (Jardin d’enfants)

Nursery schools that provide care to more than seven children 2 – 5 years of age in operation before October 25, 2005 are not required to be licensed.

Those that began operation after that date must be licensed.

Drop-in day care (Halte-garderie)

Commonly referred to as “drop-in daycare”, halte-garderie includes:

- occasional, organized child care in various settings for children whose parents are on site and can be reached if needed;
- temporary child care offered by a public or community organization in a complementary or accessory manner to its primary activities, or as part of a specific activity involving parents or children; and
- child care provided by a non-profit organisation in an educational establishment so as to allow student parents to continue their studies, if the student’s parents are on site and can be reached if needed.

A list of child care licensing exemptions can be found in section 6 of the [Educational Childcare Act](#).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

There are two kinds of regulated child care services for preschool-age children, *centres de la petite enfance* and *garderies*.

Centre de la petite enfance (CPE) (Child care centre)

CPEs are referred to as “child care centres”, while “day care centre” refers only to *garderies*. *Garderies* are mostly for-profit. CPEs are also referred to as “reduced contribution” or “subsidized/funded” centres.

A CPE is operationally funded by the province according to a formula and must charge a provincially set fee, which is the same for all age groups and is indexed annually.

A CPE must be non-profit or a cooperative whose board of directors must have at least seven members of whom at least two-thirds are parents of children who are enrolled in the CPE.

A CPE provides educational child care to eligible children (from birth until admission to kindergarten or, at the latest, until their admission to Grade 1). Children may be cared for in a child care centre for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

Following recent changes to the *Educational Childcare Act*, there is no longer a maximum number of facilities which a CPE can operate. A maximum of two CPE facilities may be housed in one building; each facility can accommodate a maximum of 100 children.

Garderie (day care centre)

A day care centre (garderie) provides child care in a facility of no more than 100 children, where children receive care regularly for periods not exceeding 48 consecutive hours. No more than two facilities may be housed in one building.

Garderies are primarily for-profit operations but may be operated by a non-profit organization or an Indigenous Band Council without a board of directors. Garderies must have a parent advisory committee.

There are two types of garderies:

- Operationally funded (as are CPEs), funded day care centres (garderies) must charge parents the provincially set fee. Grandparented and included in public funding when Quebec child care became operationally funded in 2000, these are also referred to as “reduced contribution” or “subsidized/funded” garderies; and
- Unfunded garderies not receiving government operational funds set their own fees. Parents pay the full fees and may claim a provincial tax credit for between 67% and 78% of eligible costs. These are referred to as “unsubsidized”, “unfunded” or “non-reduced contribution” garderies.

Family child care

(Service de garde en milieu familial reconnu)

Recognized (licensed) family home child care is provided in the personal residence of a home child care provider, who is licensed for up to six children including the provider’s own children. No more than two children may be under 18 months.

If another adult assists the provider, nine children are permitted, with no more than four children younger than 18 months, including the provider’s own children.

Recognized (licensed) home child care providers are overseen by a *bureau coordonnateur de la garde éducative en milieu familial* (BC) or [Home Childcare Coordinating Offices \(CCCOs\)](#), which are mandated by the Ministère but are not licensed.

School-age child care

(Services de garde en milieu scolaire)

School service centres, school boards and private schools provide school-age programs for children attending kindergarten including four-year-olds, five-year-olds, and those in elementary grades. Pupils may attend the child care program before school in the morning, during the lunch period, after school, on professional development days and during spring break.

School-age child care in schools is under the jurisdiction of the Ministère de l’Éducation. School boards are obliged to provide school-age child care when there is a demonstrated need.

School-age child care in Québec is not licensed but delivered by school authorities, is publicly funded and technically regulated under the *Education Act* and its Regulations.

Nursery school (Jardins d’enfants)

A nursery school can offer educational child care services, on a regular basis, for periods not exceeding four hours a day and in a stable group, to a minimum of seven children 2–5 years, who are offered activities over a fixed period.

A licence (permis) is compulsory for all nursery schools opened after October 25, 2005.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Accueillir la petite enfance

All CPEs, garderies, and recognized family child care providers must use an educational program with activities aimed, among other things, at fostering children’s overall development and helping children gradually adapt to life in society and integrate into a group.

Since June 8, 2019, [new regulatory provisions](#) are in force, applying to centres and licensed family child care. These indicate the essential elements that must be included in the educational program used by child care providers. The new provisions specify that elements of the educational program must be provided free of charge to families. CPEs and funded garderies may only charge for the following extras:

- field trips or outings offered as a part of the educational program;
- personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and diapers;
- a supplementary meal (breakfast or supper when the child care facility has already provided lunch); or
- an additional hour of child care beyond the 10 hours covered by the child care subsidy.

Recognized (licensed) family child care providers must submit an educational program in accordance with the new regulations as part of their licence application.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Quebec uses the term children with disabilities)

In Quebec, the term “child with a disability” refers to a child with a condition causing a significant and persistent disability with a major need for additional support due to significant barriers encountered during the integration process into child care.

Non-publicly funded garderies are not funded to support children with disabilities.

Quebec supports the inclusion of children with disabilities in licensed and funded child care with two programs.

ALLOWANCE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY (ALLOCATION POUR L'INTÉGRATION D'UN ENFANT HANDICAPÉ – AIEH)

This allowance for integration of a child with disabilities (AIEH) is paid as part of a funded centre or home's operational funding as a daily allowance based on the child's attendance. It also provides a one-time payment of \$2,200/eligible child.

AIEH funding covers all eligible children.

It may provide training and professional development for regular staff, assistive devices and equipment and modification to the premises to support mobility needs.

Children must receive a diagnosis from a professional recognized by the Ministère de la Famille or be recognized by Retraite Québec.

Funding is provided on behalf of an eligible child but may also be used to meet the needs of other children.

When a child is eligible for AIEH, the child:staff ratio may be increased for the child's group. This decision may result from a recommendation from a professional or from a choice of the childcare centre, in agreement with the parent. In addition, there is a maximum number of children eligible for AIEH in a given centre, equivalent to 15% of the facility's annualized funded spaces.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSISTANCE MEASURE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF DISABLED CHILDREN WITH MAJOR NEEDS

The [Exceptional Support Measure for Integration into Educational Childcare Services for Disabled Children with Significant Needs \(MES\)](#) provides funding for a resource person to provide individualized support.

To be eligible for this funding, a provider must already receive AIEH funding, have developed a child care integration plan, and (ideally) has an individualized service plan (ISP) that demonstrates all available resources are being used to meet the child's needs.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE

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

All full-day child care centres on First Nations reserves and in Inuit communities in Quebec are licensed.

In 2021, there were 66 child care centres on First Nations reserves and in Inuit communities, with a total of 2,824 spaces (age breakdowns are not available).

There are two regulated family child care agencies (termed “Home Child Care Coordinating Offices”) on reserves, with a total of 89 spaces.

Licensed child care centres and family child care agencies on reserve are eligible to receive the same funding as other provincially licensed centres, including operational and inclusion funding.

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) is not licensed. There are 41 AHSOR programs in Quebec.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE OTHER THAN ON RESERVE

In 2021, there were nine Indigenous-led or focused full-day child care centres, with a total of 707 spaces (age breakdowns are not available). There is also one Indigenous-led or focused family child care agency.

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs are not licensed. There are 28 AHSUNC programs in Quebec.

OTHER INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC RESOURCES/ INITIATIVES

The Cégep de Saint-Félicien in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region provides an Attestation of Collegial Studies in Childhood Education that has an Indigenous focus.

The Government of Quebec has Delegation of Authority agreements with ELCC components with a number of Indigenous organizations including First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC), the Kativik Regional Government, Government of the Cree Nation and the Council of the Atikamekw Nation.

SPACE STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REGULATED SPACES (2021)

Number of centre spaces

Centre spaces

Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs)	96,127
Garderies subventionnées (funded garderies)	49,568
Garderies non-subventionnées (unfunded garderies)	68,473

TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 5 years) 214,168

Spaces by age

	<i>Spaces in publicly funded CPEs¹</i>	<i>Spaces in publicly funded garderies²</i>	<i>Spaces in non-publicly funded garderies²</i>
0 – < 18 months	13,060	6,118	10,971
18 months – 5 years (not in school)	83,067	43,450	57,502

1 Non-profit child care centres

2 Both publicly funded and non-publicly funded garderies are primarily for-profit

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

Number of spaces in before- and after-school care for children in maternelle 4 ans, maternelle 5 ans and Grades 1 – 6

Regular	223,253
Part-time	117,430

Total number of spaces in before- and after-school care for children in maternelle 4 ans, maternelle 5 ans and Grades 1 – 6 340,683

Note: “Regular” and “part-time” in before- and after-school care are all part-day.

TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 12 years) 554,851

Regulated family child care (December 31, 2021)

Recognized home child care

0 – < 5 years (or not yet in school)	65,281
Total regulated family child care (enrolment) 65,281	

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES

(centre spaces and family child care enrolment) 620,132

Number of child care centres (December 31, 2021)

Total number of centres 3,544

Centre-based programs

Number of centres providing a full-day program	NA ³
Number of centres providing a part-day program	NA ³
Number of centres providing a part-day program for children attending school (approx 4 – 12)	NA ³
Number of centres providing care to children 0 – < 12 months	NA ³
Number of centres providing care to children 12 – < 24 months	NA ³
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care (non-standard hours as defined by the province/territory)	NA ³
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools	NA ³

3 Not available

For a definition of non-standard hours care in Quebec, see [Non-standard work and child care in Canada \(pg. 89\)](#).

Recognized family child care (December 31, 2021)

Number of child care homes (active)	9,884
Number of Home Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCOs)	166

Note: The spaces in the above tables are as of December 31, 2021.

Municipal delivery (2021)

Number of municipalities or municipal entities operating child care centres (i.e. are the licence holder) 0

Programs by auspice (2021)

Number of centres

Publicly funded garderies (for-profit)	740
Non-publicly funded garderies (for-profit)	1,239
CPEs or facilities that are part of CPEs (non-profit)	1,499
Publicly operated ¹	66

1 Municipality/municipal entity, school authority, other government agency or Indigenous governance organization

Note: These represent child care centres on First Nations reserves or Inuit land, operated by Indigenous government organizations. School authorities operate all before- and after-school programs for 4 – 12 year olds but information about the number of centres is not available, although the number of spaces is. (See next table).

Centre spaces by auspice

	Full-day spaces ¹	Part-day spaces ²	BASC spaces ³	Total spaces
For-profit	118,041	NA ⁴	NA ⁵	118,041
Non-profit	93,303	NA ⁴	NA ⁵	93,303
Publicly operated ⁶	2,824	NA ⁴	340,683	343,507

TOTAL SPACES 214,168 NA⁴ 340,683 554,851

1 0 – 5 years

2 0 – 5 years

3 Before- and after-school care spaces (4 – 12 years)

4 Not available

5 Not applicable

6 Municipality/municipal entity, school authority, other government agency or Indigenous governance organization

Note: For a profile of child care auspice in Quebec see *Risky Business*.

FEE SUBSIDIES

Quebec does not use a system of individual parent fee subsidies.

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 programs and services in Quebec, see this [directory](#).

ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Number of children enrolled in regulated centres (December 31, 2021)

	Number of children
Centres de la petite enfance (CPEs)	93,788
Garderies (funded and unfunded)	98,079

TOTAL ENROLMENT (0 – 5 years) 191,867

Enrolment by age

	CPEs	Publicly funded garderies	Non-publicly funded garderies
Full-day centres			
0 – <12 months	5,217	2,592	3,360
12 – < 24 months	16,379	8,622	11,458
24 months – < 5 years (not in school)	72,192	35,608	36,439

Part-day centres

24 months – <5 years (not in school) Not available

Before- and after-school care

(licensed, regulated, approved or authorized) Not available

Number of children in pre-maternelle and maternelle enrolled in before- and after-school care Not available

Number of children in grades 1 – 6 enrolled in before- and after-school care Not available

Total number of children in pre-maternelle, maternelle, and grades 1 – 6 enrolled in before- and after-school care Not available

TOTAL ENROLMENT (0 – 12 years) Not available

PARENT FEES

Quebec has set province-wide parent fees for all publicly funded (termed “reduced contribution”) child care services since September 1, 1997. Quebec’s set fees are indexed annually on January 1. The parent contribution (fee) is paid directly to the child care service.

The basic parent contribution (fee) in 2021 was \$8.50, in 2022 was \$8.70/day per child regardless of child’s age or parents’ income, moving to \$8.85/day on January 1, 2023 in funded centres and regulated home child care.

Unfunded garderies are not required to charge a provincially set parent fee and can set their own market fee. Parents using these centres may apply for a rebate in the form of a tax credit from the Quebec government.

A [calculator](#) is available on the Ministère des Finances website to enable families to calculate the net cost of a child care space in funded and unfunded programs.

PROVINCIAL DATA ON AVERAGE FEES

Information on average fees in unfunded garderies is not available from the provincial government. In 2021, the average daily rate paid by parents who requested advance payments of the refundable tax credit for childcare expenses for children under five years was \$39.64.

Source: Ministère des Finances.



Median monthly fees in Quebec: Annual Fee Survey

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

<i>Median monthly fees for full-time child care</i>	<i>Gatineau</i>	<i>Laval</i>	<i>Montreal</i>	<i>Longueuil</i>	<i>Quebec City</i>
Infant - Provincially set fee (publicly funded)	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Infant - Market fee (non-publicly funded)	\$1,042	\$933	\$977	\$1,042	\$1,194
Toddler - Provincially set fee (publicly funded)	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Toddler - Market fee (non- publicly funded)	\$977	\$868	\$846	\$933	\$1,085
Preschool-age - Provincially set fee (publicly funded)	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189	\$189
Preschool-age - market fee (non-publicly funded)	\$977	\$868	\$846	\$933	\$1,085

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*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centres and family child care.

WORKFORCE

EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALIFICATIONS

The Diploma of College Studies (*diplôme d'études collégiales en techniques d'éducation à l'enfance – DEC*) in early childhood education (three-year program) is the main qualification required to be recognized as a qualified early childhood educator in Quebec.

Alternative education and training also recognized by the provincial government as equivalent include:

- college-level studies (*attestation d'études collégiales – AEC*) in early childhood education (a minimum of 1,200 hours) and three years (4,992 hours) of relevant experience;
- AEC for educators in First Nations child care settings. For educators working outside Indigenous communities, three years (4,992 hours) of qualifying experience is also required;

- DEC in special education or social work. In addition, the individual must hold an ACS in early childhood education (a minimum of 1,200 hours) or an accredited university certificate specialized in early childhood;
- an accredited university certificate (30 credits) in early childhood and three years (4992 hours) of qualifying experience; and
- a Bachelor's degree including a minimum of 30 credits in early childhood, preschool education, school and social adjustment (speech and language therapy), and psychoeducation or psychology.

Note: Any university certificate or degree must include or be supplemented by, college- or university-level courses on child health and safety and on appropriate educational approaches.

Note: The directive on approved alternative education and training was amended on January 30, 2023.

There are also two alternative options for individuals who are already working in child care to become qualified:

- The Work-Study Program (COUD – short-term training) provides paid training that takes place during working hours. The program leads to an AEC in early childhood education. This program may apply to those recently hired by a centre; and
- The Recognition of Acquired Competencies (RAC) Process applies to individuals with a minimum of three years (4,992 hours) of qualifying work experience in child care. The process aims to officially recognize the competencies acquired during life and work experiences and can lead to an AEC or DEC in early childhood education. Individuals will be able to take time off work, without loss of pay, for a maximum of 12 working days (96 hours) to prepare their file and attend the various meetings. All costs associated with the option leading to the AEC are covered by the government.

The document [Référentiel de compétences des éducatrices et des éducateurs de la petite enfance \(2021\)](#) outlines the competencies expected of qualified early childhood educators when they start working in child care programs. This document is intended to be the official framework for evaluation of training programs, recruitment and professional learning for child care staff. The use of this framework is not mandatory.

For more information regarding early childhood qualifications, see [Directive concernant l'évaluation de la qualification du personnel de garde](#).

A certification process for early childhood education providers is under development.

STAFF WAGES

In Quebec, wages of staff in CPEs, publicly funded garderies, and accredited home child care coordinating offices (CCCOs) generally follow specified provincial wage scales. Unfunded garderies and non-unionized garderies are not required to apply the salary scale proposed by the Ministère.

If the CPE is unionized, it must also use the salary scale set out in their collective agreement. For non-unionized CPEs, the ministry provides and recommends, but does not impose, a provincial salary scale.

Provincial wage scale

Since 2006, the Quebec government has implemented [Wage rates and scales for child care staff](#) (*Taux et échelles de salaires du personnel de garde*) in CPEs, publicly funded garderies, and accredited Home Child Care Coordinating offices.

The wage scales apply to both qualified and unqualified child care staff and non-child care staff (e.g., cooks, administration, accounting, etc.). An employee is assessed by the employer for the minimum eligibility requirements based on education qualifications and credentials.

The wage scale (*échelles de salaires*) for each job category includes several levels (*échelons*) with level 1 being the lowest of the levels applicable to an employee who meets the minimum eligibility requirements without relevant experience. Wages progress depending on the experience acquired.

On April 1, 2022, the hourly wage of qualified child care staff was increased by 18% (after one year at the previous level) and that of unqualified child care staff by 10%.

Provincial wage scale (\$) – Qualified child care staff (effective April 1st, 2022)

<i>Level</i>	<i>Rate</i>
1	21.60
2	22.28
3	22.97
4	23.72
5	24.48
6	25.23
7	26.06
8	26.87
9	27.74
10	28.60
1 year at Level 10	30.03

Wages of unqualified child care staff vary between \$18.52 and \$27.78. For further information see [Wage rates and scales for child care staff](#) and [Guide to the classification and remuneration of salaried staff in childcare centres, subsidized daycare centers and home childcare coordinating offices](#).

Provincial wage data

No data are available regarding wages for unfunded garderies. As mentioned above, unfunded garderies (for-profit day care centres) and non-unionized day care services are encouraged but not required to apply the salary scale posted by the Ministère.

Pension plan and group insurance for employees in funded child care

Quebec has a pension plan and group insurance for staff in CPEs, funded garderies and staff in family child care agencies. Employer contributions receive funding by the Quebec government.

Unionization

Quebec is the sole jurisdiction with a sizeable unionized child care workforce. About half the child care workforce in Quebec is represented by one of three unions: a) the [Fédération des intervenantes en petite enfance du Québec \(FIPEQ\)](#), which exclusively represents centre staff and family child care providers and is affiliated to the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ); b) the Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux (FSSS-CSN), affiliated to the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN); and c) the Quebec Service Employees Union (SQEES), affiliated with the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ).

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	\$40,400
Median hourly employment income	\$19.42 – 22.20

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 CENTRE-BASED CHILD CARE

CPEs and garderies are licensed and regulated under the [Educational Childcare Act](#) and [Educational Childcare Regulation](#).

Child care for children 4 – 12 years outside school hours is under the [Education Act](#) and the [Regulation respecting childcare services provided at school](#).

Maximum facility size: 100 spaces

Staff:child ratio and maximum group size

Age of child	Staff:child ratio	Maximum group size
0 – < 18 months	1:5	15
18 months – < 4 years	1:8	30
4 years – < 5 years	1:10	30

Note: In multi-age groups, the ratio is based on the ratio for the youngest child in the group.

Staffing requirements for centres

This section describes the minimum staffing requirements for a regulated centre for 0 – 4 year olds to operate. It includes early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff and centre supervisors/directors and other requirements (e.g., age, first aid, background check).

The Educational Childcare Regulation provides staff: child ratios for groups of children according to their age. Children of different ages may be grouped together (multi-age groups); in this case, the child care staff: child ratio is calculated for the whole group and the ratio applicable to the youngest children applies.

Early childhood requirements for staffing a centre

Quebec staffing requirements are set at a centre level, not for a room or group.

Two-thirds of staff in a child care centre must be qualified educators, as described in the Workforce section above.

If the number of child care staff is less than three, at least one must be qualified at all times.

Note: During the COVID-19 health emergency period, the requirement to have two qualified staff out of three was temporarily lowered to one qualified person out of three. This temporary measure was still in place in January 2023. Its time frame is described as:

Until 9 months have elapsed since the last day of the public health emergency declared by Order in Council 177-2020 dated 13 March 2020, the licence (permis) holder must ensure that at least 1 childcare staff member out of 3 is qualified and present each day with the children while childcare is being provided and, for the next 12 months, at least 1 childcare staff member out of 2 is qualified and present each day with the children while childcare is being provided.

The last day of the public health emergency was June 1, 2022.

A new or expanded licensed child care centre has five years to comply with the required number of qualified educators. In the meantime, the centre must ensure that at least one-third of child care staff present each day with children are qualified educators.

Early childhood qualifications for onsite centre supervisors
There are no qualification requirements specific to centre directors.

Other requirements

A licensee must ensure that each child care staff member holds an eight hour early childhood specific first aid course including a component on the management of severe allergic reactions or a minimum six-hour refresher course.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement of regulated centres for 0 – 5 year olds

The Ministère de la Famille issues licences/permits (*permis*) to CPEs and garderies for up to a five-year period. Québec does not issue conditional or provisional licences. If a centre is found to be in non-compliance with legislative requirements but there is no immediate danger to the health or wellbeing of the children, Ministère de la Famille informs the centre's board of directors or owner in writing and requests rectification. A follow-up check is done by an inspector when sufficient time is deemed to have passed. Repeated instances of non-compliance that do not pose an immediate threat may result in administrative penalties.

Regulations regarding inspection

Ministère de la Famille inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations.

Inspectors are not required to have early childhood education qualifications.

There are two types of inspections:

- full inspections (*inspections complètes*) are scheduled visits to verify compliance with all elements of the *Act* and its regulation. CPEs and daycare centres (garderies) receive at least one complete inspection within six months after becoming licensed, when renewing the licence and when an update of compliance information is required. Depending on the findings from the inspection and/or complaints received, additional inspections are conducted; and

- partial inspections (*inspections partielles*) are unannounced visits that aim to verify a limited number of legislative elements. They are carried out as part of the processing of a complaint, follow-up on another inspection, or necessary verification of compliance to certain elements.

For more information, see [Politique d'inspection des prestataires de services de garde reconnus et des bureaux coordonnateurs de la garde en milieu familial](#) (Inspection policy for child care service providers and Home Childcare Coordinating Offices).

Parent involvement

A CPE's board of directors must be made up of at least seven members, two-thirds of whom (a minimum of five) are parent-users or future clients of the centre. A CPE's board of directors must elect a chair who must be a parent of a child receiving child care.

A for-profit licensee must set up an advisory committee composed of five parents and consult with the parent committee on all aspects of the care of children in the centre, particularly with respect to implementation of the educational program, services provided and how complaints are processed.

Initiatives regarding assessing and improving quality

Beginning in 2018, child care providers must, at the Ministère de la Famille's request, participate in the process to assess and improve the educational quality of child care for three - five year old children. For further details see the [Explanatory guide](#) and [Educational quality in childcare establishments](#).

The Ministère determines the measurement tools to be used in this process and may require child care providers and their participating staff to provide the Ministère with the information and documents required and to complete a questionnaire assessing child care quality.

This process is ongoing in 2022.

The Ministère follows up on the results of the child care educational quality assessment and improvement process with the child care providers concerned.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

In Quebec, regulated family child care is called recognized home child care. Recognized home child care is regulated by the [Educational Childcare Act](#) and [Educational Childcare Regulation](#).

Recognized home child care must be provided in the provider's personal residence.

Licensed home child care providers in Quebec are unionized under a collective agreement.

Model of organization

Home child care in Québec follows an agency model.

Home child care providers are licensed and supervised according to provincial regulations by 161 Home Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCO).

Home Child Care Coordinating Offices (CCCOs) are accredited by the provincial government for a maximum period of five years; they are not licensed. A coordinating office may be a CPE or a non-profit organization.

CCCOs have, among other things, the following functions:

- to grant, renew, suspend or revoke the licence of home child care providers;
- to ensure that the home child care providers comply with the standards that apply to them by law;
- to distribute publicly funded care spaces among licensed home child care providers;
- to determine, according to the regulations, a parent's eligibility for participation in publicly funded child care;
- to administer the granting, payment, maintenance, suspension, reduction, withdrawal or recovery of subsidies to recognized home child care providers;
- to make information about home child care services available to parents;
- to deal with complaints concerning home child care providers;
- to provide technical and pedagogical support on request; and
- to promote/encourage new recognized home child care providers.

Maximum capacity

A home child care provider may care for up to six children of whom no more than two children may be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, they may care for up to nine children of whom no more than four may be under 18 months. Children under nine years living in the home where child care is provided are included for the purposes of these ratios.

The assistant is an employee of the home child care provider, who must maintain a file demonstrating that the assistant meets the requirements. The coordinating office takes responsibility for the necessary background checks of the assistant.

In Quebec, a family child care home with two providers is not termed "group family child care" or distinguished from family child care with one provider.

Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement

Recognition (a licence) of a home child care provider is granted for a five year period. The coordinating office makes a visit to the residence and conducts interviews with the child care provider and any residents above the age of 14 before the recognition.

Regulations regarding home inspections/visits

A coordinating office receives a complete inspection by the Ministère inspector on the occasion of accreditation renewal and when an update of the compliance information is required.

The coordinating office must make three unannounced visits per year to each home while child care is being provided to verify compliance with the *Act* and the Regulations. The first visit must take place within three months after recognition (the licence) is granted.

The coordinating office may also make an unannounced visit to a home following a complaint to verify the object and validity of the complaint. A report must be drawn up based on the visits.

Parent involvement

An accredited Home Child Care Coordinating Office must have a board of directors that includes:

- a majority of members are parents who are clients of a home child care provider operating in the coordinating office's assigned territory; and
- no more than one member is a home child care provider operating in the coordinating office's assigned territory.

If a CPE is accredited as a Home Child Care Coordinating Office, within six months of being accredited, it must ensure that the composition of the board of directors includes:

- at least two-thirds of the members are divided equally between parents who use the child care provided by the child care centre and parents who use the home child care coordinated by the child care centre; and
- no more than one member is a home child care provider recognized by the child care centre.

Home child care provider requirements

A recognized home child care provider must have a criminal background check, complete an eight hour early childhood-specific first aid course, and have completed, in the three years preceding the application, a training program of at least 45 hours pertaining to: the role of a home child care provider; child development; safety, health and diet; and the educational program provided for in the *Act*.

If the main provider is assisted by another person, the assistant must have completed an eight hour early childhood first aid course and complete child development training of at least 12 hours within six months after beginning work.

Home child care providers must take six hours of refresher training every year including at least three hours on child development and the educational program provided for in the *Act*.

Each adult living or present in the home on a regular basis must have a criminal background check.

■ FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Child care funding in Quebec is available for all CPEs, funded garderies and to family child care (via Home Child Care Coordinating Offices) through a formula approach.

Non-profit and publicly funded for-profit facilities are generally treated the same way with respect to operational funding. The formula rate for non-profits is higher than for for-profits. In addition, only non-profits are eligible for the infrastructure funding program (PFI).

Non-funded garderies are not eligible for operational funding or funding to include children with disabilities. Infrastructure funding is available only to CPEs and CPE licence applicants.

TYPES OF FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE FOR 0 – 5 YEAR OLDS

FEE SUBSIDIES

Quebec does not use a system of individual parent fee subsidies.

In 2021, all parents at all income levels of children from birth to school admission, as well as children in child care outside regular school hours during the school year using operationally funded child care (CPEs, funded garderies and recognized home child care) pay a single flat fee, which is indexed annually.

Under the child care Regulation, certain parents using publicly funded child care are exempt from paying the set fee. This applies to parents of children under 5 years of age (September 30) who are beneficiaries under the Social Assistance program, the Social Solidarity program, the Youth Alternative Program, the Aim for Employment Program, or the Income Security Program for Cree Hunters and Trappers.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING FOR CPEs, FUNDED GARDERIES AND RECOGNIZED HOME CHILD CARE (Responsibility of Ministère de la Famille)

Quebec's regulated child care services, with the exception of unfunded garderies, which are not eligible, are operationally funded. The formula for operational funding is based on both licensed capacity and occupancy rates to determine the amount of funding CPEs and funded garderies will receive. For further details see: [Budget rules and occupancy rules](#).

In the case of home child care providers, the operational funding is negotiated by collective agreement. As of April 1, 2022, [funding for family child care was to have increased](#) by approximately 16%.

Allowance for Integration of a Disabled Child

[Funds](#) are provided to publicly funded child care services to reimburse expenses associated with a child's inclusion in a group.

The funds granted under this allocation are divided into two parts:

- expenses associated with remuneration, hiring or training of staff; and
- purchase or adaptation of materials or physical layout of premises (see one-time funding).

Additional disability funding per child per day (2021)

Type of program	Additional funding per child per day
CPE	\$43.19
Funded day care centre (garderie)	\$41.67
Funded home child care	\$36.46

Note: Non-publicly funded garderies do not receive funds to support children with disabilities.

An additional last-resort measure provides funding for all or part of the remuneration associated with the hours of assistance required for the integration of children with disabilities and major needs. For this [financial assistance](#), the eligible provider (a CPE or recognized family child care provider) must already receive the Allowance for integrating a disabled child for the child.

For more information, see [Directive concerning the allowance for integration of a disabled child](#).

A one-time lump sum payment for the purchase or adaptation of materials or physical layout of premises to support the inclusion of a child with disability in a child care program is included in the operation grant of the facility for the financial year during which the child with special needs is registered for the first time.

OPERATING FUNDS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE (RESPONSIBILITY OF MEES)

Funding for before-and after-school child care for 4 – 12 year olds is the responsibility of the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES). Funds are allocated to school service centres (*centres de services scolaire*) or school boards (*commission scolaire*) which then distribute the funds to their schools. There are several types of funding.

Start-up funding

Financial assistance for school service centres and school boards to set up a child care service in one of their schools.

Basic funding for investments

Allows school service centres and school boards to finance expenditure for the purchase of furniture, equipment and tools.

Operating funding for school days

Calculated based on the number of students with regular status registered in child care services as of September 30.

Operating funding for pedagogical days

Calculated based on the number of students registered and present at child care services for each pedagogical day.

Additional funding for students with disabilities or learning difficulties

Additional staff and intervention support.

Additional funding for children from preschool-age to maternelle 4 ans

Allows programs to have a staff:child ratio similar to that in preschool-age services (maximum 1:7).

Funding for consultation, planning and preparation time

Paid time to child care staff in order to communicate with parents, school staff and other stakeholders, if any.

A full list and description of funding can be found on the [MEES website](#).

Note: Funding for school-age child care does not include funding for lunchtime supervision.



ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR CPEs

Infrastructure Funding Program (Programme de financement des infrastructures – PFI)

The [Infrastructure Funding Program \(Programme de financement des infrastructures \(PFI\)\)](#) grant provides resources to CPEs or CPE licence applicants to carry out capital projects requiring a significant financial contribution (\$50,000 or greater) while facilitating access to financing on advantageous terms. This grant is separate from the Subvention pour les projets d'investissement en infrastructure; CPEs are eligible for both.

To be eligible, the CPE or CPE licence applicants must have been authorized to:

- increase or develop the number of subsidized spaces; or
- relocate; or
- carry out renovation or repair work to urgently correct a situation that compromises the health and safety of children or the integrity of the building; or
- acquire the building where the child care services are offered in order to avoid eviction from the premises.

See [Administrative rules](#) for more details.

Infrastructure investment projects (Subvention pour les projets d'investissement en infrastructure - SPII)

The SPII is granted to the CPE whose capital project has a net financing requirement of less than \$50,000 and cannot be eligible for the Infrastructure funding for that sole reason. The types of project that are eligible for this grant include:

- a renovation project that aims to improve the quality, increase the lifespan and increase the service potential;
 - projects aimed at improving outdoor play areas, improving the building to accommodate children with disabilities; and
 - projects that enable compliance with a standard on lead in the context of a call for projects.
-

OTHER FUNDING

Funding for unfunded garderies – refundable tax credit

Quebec reimburses parents, based on their income, through a [refundable tax credit](#) paid quarterly to cover 67% – 78% of eligible child care expenses paid in unfunded, non-reduced contribution for-profit garderies and in some unregulated child care, including recreation programs, day camps and babysitters in the home (excluding members of the family).

Projections for tax credits reimbursing families using non-reduced contribution centres increased from \$731.5 million in 2019 (estimation) to \$911.7 million in 2020 and \$920.7 million in 2021.

Source: *TABLEAU Coût des mesures, Coûts des dépenses fiscales – Édition 2021*, Budget documents, Ministère des Finances, Government of Quebec.

PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2020 – 2021)

FEE SUBSIDIES

Not applicable because Quebec does not use parent fee subsidies.

OPERATIONAL (PREVIOUSLY RECURRING) FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Funding for CPEs and funded garderies	\$1,769,278,763
Funding for regulated home child care	\$582,360,111
Additional funding for regulated home child care (Mesure pour les responsables d'un service de garde en milieu familial)	\$1,285,533
Allowance for Integration of children with disabilities (AIDC)	\$120,694,085
Pension plan for employees in child care and group insurance plan	\$124,907,058
Expenditure on school-age child care by MEES	<i>Not available</i>
Total operational funding	\$2,881,067,245

Note: The 2019 expenditure on school-age child care was \$282,541,695. Total operational funding includes \$282,541,695 as a place-holder for missing 2021 school-age child care expenditure.

ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR CPEs

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Capital expenditures	\$2,308,772
CPE Infrastructure Funding Program	\$46,322,334
Total one-time funding	\$48,631,106

**TOTAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE
(operational funding and
one-time funding) \$2,929,698,351**

OTHER ELCC FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Grants for halte-garderies	\$6,043,515
Care for children with disabilities age 12 – 21 years	\$1,508,244
Other	\$3,245,514
Frais de garde d'enfants (Tax credit for families using unfunded for-profit centres)	\$920,700,000

FEDERAL TRANSFERS TO PROVINCE

<i>Federal transfers</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework - Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$86,275,188
Safe Restart Agreement (child care specific funding)	\$136,915,000

COVID-19 RELATED SUPPORTS

Reimbursement for parent fees during the period of mandatory closing (CPE and subsidized garderies)	\$59,295,071
Compensation for additional expenses related to cleaning and disinfection (CPE, subsidized garderies and RSG)	\$24,691,319
Compensation for unfunded garderies for loss of income during mandatory closures	\$38,685,100
Emergency assistance to community organizations providing drop in care during the pandemic	\$358,926

■ OF INTEREST

MUNICIPAL ROLE

In the past, municipalities have not played an active role in child care provision in Québec. However, in 2020 the Union of Québec Municipalities convened a committee to examine ways in which local municipalities could assist in the provision of child care services. Their [report](#)² describes several policy levers accessible to the municipality, including that municipal councils may, under the [Educational Childcare Services Act](#) (section 134), acquire, build or develop buildings on its territory that may be rented or sold for the benefit of CPEs or day care centres.

FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

The [Fédération québécoise des organismes communautaires Famille \(FQOCF\)](#), founded in 1961, represents and supports over 245 family support organizations (*organismes communautaires famille*) in Québec.

These organizations offer services and resources to parents and families through various means:

- workshops, training and conferences;
- parent relief and drop-in daycare (*halte-garderies*);
- early years and school readiness activities;
- communal kitchens;
- parent events;
- consultation; and
- day camps, etc.

² See page 14 – 15 of the linked document.

LES REGROUPEMENTS

Organized by administrative region, the regroupements create a structure that supports the Quebec not-for-profit child care sector infrastructure and services at an affordable cost. Since 1974, the year in which the first *regroupement des CPEs* was created in Montérégie, other regroupements developed. A full list is available [here](#).

LA PLACE 0-5

Quebec introduced La Place 0-5, a single window for access to child care spaces, in 2015. It allows parents to register their child once, on a single platform, for those regulated child care programs in their region. Since 2018, all recognized child care providers in Quebec are required to join La Place 0-5 and to exclusively use parent registrations made through this service.

Source: Groleau, A., Aranibar Zeballos, D. (2022). *Enquête québécoise sur l'accessibilité et l'utilisation des services de garde 2021. Portrait statistique.*

PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

[Fédération des intervenantes en petite enfance du Québec \(FIPEQ\)](#)

[Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance \(AQCEPE\)](#)

[Conseil québécois des services éducatifs à la petite enfance \(CQSEPE\)](#)

[Association des cadres des CPE \(ACCPE\)](#)

[Association québécoise de la garde scolaire](#)

[Association québécoise des milieux familiaux éducatifs privés](#)

[Ma place au travail](#)

[Observatoire des tout-petits](#)

