

Saskatchewan



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Saskatchewan

■ OVERVIEW

In Saskatchewan, early learning and child care includes pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, regulated centre-based child care, school-age child care, family and group family child care.

Kindergarten is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education under the *Education Act*. While most children attend, it is not compulsory. In most schools, kindergarten is half-day every day or full-day every other day. The province-wide Conseil scolaire francosaskois offers full-school day kindergarten in all its schools.

Indigenous Services Canada provides funding to Band Councils and First Nations Education Authorities for children in kindergarten who attend schools on reserve, or who attend provincially run schools off reserve.

Child care is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, which licenses centres and family child care under the *Child Care Act*. Part-day preschools are not required to be licensed in Saskatchewan. Programs in Saskatchewan are overwhelmingly delivered by non-profit operators but there are a small number of publicly operated and for-profit programs; for-profit programs receive no public funding in Saskatchewan. Family child care providers and group family child care providers are individually licensed. There are currently two licensed child care centres located on First Nations' reserves in Saskatchewan.

Parent fees are set by service providers¹. Parent fee subsidies are available to eligible families through the Child Care Subsidy Program. Fee subsidies may be used at non-profit or publicly operated child care centres and licensed family child care homes.

Saskatchewan signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Multilateral Framework Agreement) on March 5, 2017. This agreement allocated \$41.5 million over three years; it was extended on June 29, 2020 with another \$13.7 million allocated to the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year, and renewed on August 13, 2021 with a further \$68.5 million allocated over four years.

1 In March 2023, Saskatchewan announced that a maximum parent fee of \$10 a day will begin April 1, 2023.

The Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was signed by Saskatchewan and the federal government on August 13, 2021. This agreement allocated \$996 million over five years to:

- create at least 28,000 spaces for children 0 to 5 years old by 2025 – 2026, with a focus on rural areas;
- reduce parent fees beginning in 2021;
- provide increased funding amounts to programs to support inclusion;
- create and implement a wage grid for early childhood educators;
- provide bursaries to educators seeking to upgrade their credentials; and
- provide additional funding for administration related to CWELCC implementation.

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)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0	11,800
1	11,900
2	13,800
3	12,200
4	13,200
5	14,200
6	14,800
7	15,800
8	15,500
9	14,800
10	14,000
11	16,000
12	14,700
Total	182,800

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0 – 2	37,500
3 – 5	39,600
6 – 12	105,600
Total	182,800

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children (2021)</i>
0	7,700
1	7,900
2	9,000
3	8,400
4	9,500
5	9,900
6	10,000
7	10,200
8	11,500
9	9,800
10	9,700
11	10,800
12	10,200
Total	124,700

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

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	24,600
3 – 5	27,800
6 – 12	72,200
Total	124,700

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	12,730	5,040	30	245	110
5 – 9	13,705	5,690	55	295	120
10 – 14	14,810	5,935	40	175	125
Total	41,245	16,665	125	715	355

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	28,700	76.9
4 – 5	11,100	86.0
0 – 5	39,800	79.4
6 – 12	34,900	85.1

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	53,595	13,050	10,670	2,380
5 – 9	56,225	16,920	13,155	3,760
10 – 14	54,005	18,950	14,570	4,380

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	61,025	245	5,985	2,085
5 – 9	68,600	255	5,045	2,530
10 – 14	69,245	200	4,825	2,610
Total	198,865	695	15,860	7,235

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

\$100,000

Male lone-parent

\$46,000

Female lone-parent\$46,000

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**

19 weeks.

A pregnant employee who has been employed by the same employer for more than 13 consecutive weeks is eligible.

Parental leave

59 weeks for birth parents or primary caregivers in an adoption.

71 weeks for the parent who did not take maternity or adoption leave.

An employee who has been employed by the same employer for more than 13 consecutive weeks is eligible.

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

Adoption leave

19 weeks.

An employee is eligible if they have worked for the same employer for more than 13 consecutive weeks.

PARENT 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.

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 parents. 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 Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Education has responsibility for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten under the *Education Act*.

Saskatchewan has 18 public school divisions, eight separate (Roman Catholic) school divisions and the Conseil scolaire fransaskois. School boards are elected to govern education in their school divisions.

While it is not mandated, all school divisions provide kindergarten for five-year-olds, and most children attend. In most schools, kindergarten is half-day every day or full-school day every other day. The province-wide Conseil scolaire fransaskois offers full-school day kindergarten in all its schools.

Three hundred and sixteen part-day pre-kindergarten programs for three- and four-year-olds, funded by the provincial government, are offered in 190 schools in vulnerable neighbourhoods across Saskatchewan. In addition, the Conseil scolaire fransaskois offers part-day pre-kindergarten for four-year-olds in all its schools, and part-day pre-kindergarten for three-year-olds in four schools.

Qualified independent schools receive 50% of the provincial per student average. They must be operated by a non-profit corporation and provide programs and approved courses of study in accordance with provincial curriculum policy.

Indigenous Services Canada provides funding to Band Councils and First Nations Education Authorities for children in kindergarten who attend schools on reserve or who attend provincially run schools off reserve. In 2014, Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Saskatoon Public Schools signed an educational partnership agreement that made Charles Red Hawk Elementary School the first on reserve school to be part of a Saskatchewan school division.

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ministry of Education
Early Years Branch
2nd floor - 2220 College Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 4V9
Phone: (306) 787-2004
Website: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools>
Email: learning.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*. – SS1995, C E-0.2.

Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. *The Education Regulations*, 2019. Chapter E-0.2 Reg 29.

Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, *The Registered Teachers Act*. Amended 2020 c.9.

KINDERGARTEN FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

Kindergarten is usually a part-time program for five-year-olds.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE JURISDICTION OR POPULATION

In urban school divisions, many programs have transitioned from having kindergarten students attend part-day (morning or afternoon) five days per week to full-school days, every other day, although both models are still present. In rural school divisions, it is common for kindergarten students to attend a full-day, every other day (two days one week, three days the next).

ELIGIBILITY

Children are typically eligible for kindergarten if they are five years old by December 31 of the respective school year. The kindergarten eligibility date is determined by the individual school divisions and there is slight variation across the province.

ENROLMENT

Kindergarten is not compulsory in Saskatchewan. Children must legally attend school at age six. However, almost all children attend kindergarten when they are five years old.

ENTITLEMENT

Kindergarten is a legal entitlement for all eligible children in Saskatchewan.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY/ TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

At least 475 hours of instructional time per year must be provided in kindergarten. The length of the school day and timing of beginning and end of day varies by division and school but typically each part-day consists of approximately two hours and 50 minutes.

The Saskatoon School Division offers full-school day kindergarten every day in some schools, with funding from the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation's *Early Learning Equal Start program*. Greater Saskatoon Catholic (St. Paul's Roman Catholic School Division) is also offering full-school day every day kindergarten in some locations.

CLASS SIZE

There is no maximum class size for kindergarten.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Saskatchewan Kindergarten Curriculum Guide, 2010](#)
[Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten, 2009](#)

GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

Kindergarten teachers in Saskatchewan must hold a valid teacher's certificate, issued by the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB), and be registered with the SPTRB on an annual basis. In order to become certified, a degree in education obtained through a university or a teacher education program, approved by the SPTRB is required.

There are no specific early childhood education requirements for kindergarten teachers.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-kindergarten (pre-k) is a part-time early childhood education program targeting vulnerable three and four-year-olds and their families in targeted communities/ neighbourhoods.

The Ministry of Education provides funding, program guidelines and consultative support. School divisions hire staff and operate the program. Most pre-kindergarten programs are operated in schools although school divisions have the option of partnering with a community organization to offer programming.

As of 2021, there were 316 ministry-funded pre-kindergarten programs across the province.

ELIGIBILITY

Prekindergarten includes three- and four-year-olds in targeted communities/ neighbourhoods or those who meet specified eligibility criteria, including:

- low socio-economic status;
- referral from a government or community-based agency;
- social isolation or not having access to early learning programs or child care;
- family health care challenges;
- exposure to family trauma; and/or
- delays in areas such as social-emotional, language and/or communication development.

Each school division selects children to participate in pre-kindergarten. Schools prioritize the criteria and place four-year-olds first.

ENTITLEMENT

Pre-kindergarten is a targeted program in specific neighbourhoods for children who meet the eligibility criteria. There is no entitlement.

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS PER DAY/ TYPICAL LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The pre-kindergarten program is part-time, offering a minimum of 12 hours per week, usually three hours/day for four days a week, 10 months/year.

As of September 2021, the Saskatoon School Division offers full-school day pre-kindergarten (Monday – Thursday) in several schools, with funding from Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation's Early Learning Equal Start program.

CLASS SIZE

Maximum class size for pre-kindergarten is 16 children. However, if the pre-kindergarten program also has early learning intensive support (ELIS) spaces with the accompanying support, the maximum class size is 18 children.

CURRICULUM OR CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Pre-k programs are guided by Ministry developed and supported documents [Play and exploration: Early learning guide](#) and [Essential learning experiences](#).

GENERAL TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

The program requires a qualified teacher, preferably with specialized knowledge in early childhood education, and a pre-kindergarten associate, who is required to have completed grade 12 and preferably has an early childhood education background.

TOTAL ENROLMENT (SCHOOL YEAR 2020 – 2021)

Kindergarten	12,866
Pre-kindergarten	3,531
Total	16,397

Note: Enrolment numbers represent only public schools.

In the 2020 – 2021 school year enrolment was down due to COVID-19. The fall 2021 enrolment was 13,479 for kindergarten and 4,442 for pre-kindergarten.

FINANCIAL (SCHOOL YEAR 2020 – 2021)

Spending on kindergarten (per child)	<i>Not available</i>
Spending on kindergarten (total)	Not available
Spending on pre-kindergarten (per child)	<i>Not available</i>
Spending on pre-kindergarten (total)	\$20,773,246

■ CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Ministry of Education
Early Years Branch
2nd floor - 2220 College Avenue
Regina, SK, S4P 4V9
Telephone: (306) 787-4980
Website: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/child-care-in-saskatchewan>

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Act](#). – SS2014, C-7.31.
Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Regulations](#) – RRS2015, C-7.31 Reg 1. Amended 69/2015, 49/2016, 21/2018, 76/2019, 69/2020 and 77/2021.

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

One caregiver may care for a maximum of eight children under the age of 13 years including the caregiver's own children under 10 years. Five of these children may be infants, toddlers and preschool children, of which only two may be infants and toddlers. If three infants and toddlers are in care, all other children must be of school-age.

A more detailed breakdown of all age combinations permitted with eight children is available on [How child care works in Saskatchewan](#).

Preschools

Part-time preschools in which no child attends for more than three hours per day are not regulated. Preschools are operated by non-profit boards, cooperatives and by private individuals.

School-aged child care in schools

Child care programs located in schools for kindergarten children and school-aged children (Grade 1 and higher) are not regulated.

Note: Additional exemptions from regulation can be found in section 3 (“Certain services excluded”) of the [Child Care Regulations](#).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Centres must be regulated by the Early Years Branch and may care for up to 90 children from six weeks old to 12 years old.

Full-time centres

Child care centres provide child care to children in a group setting for more than five continuous hours per day and three or more days per week.

Extended hours centres

A centre in which child care services are provided for 80 hours or more per week.

Teen student support centres

Teen student support centres are located in or near high schools. They provide child care for more than five hours per day and three or more days per week (primarily) to infants and toddlers, of parents who are younger than 22 years old and are attending high school or a high school equivalency program.

School-age child care

School-age child care is provided outside school hours for children who are under 13 years old and enrolled in Grade 1 or higher, or who have completed kindergarten but have not yet commenced Grade 1. Regulated school-age child care can be provided in a mixed age-centre, family child care home, or in a program solely for school-age children not located in a school.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Family child care homes

Operated by regulated family child care providers in residential premises (The premises may be in an owned or rental residential property in which the provider does not live; however, to date all family child care homes are in the provider's residence).

They may care for up to eight children depending on the children's ages, including the provider's own children under the age of ten. The provider can provide no more than 100 hours of care in one 24 hour period.

Group family child care homes

Operated by an individual in residential premises and regulated for up to 12 children. Not more than 10 of the children may be infants, toddlers or preschool-age children. Of the 10, only five may be infants or toddlers and no more than three may be infants. No more than six may be infants or toddlers and, if six are infants or toddlers, there may be no preschool-age children.

The provider must have an assistant adult caregiver at least 18 years of age when the numbers or ages of children permitted in a family child care home exceed eight. A licensee can provide no more than 150 hours of care in one 24 hour period.

Teen student support family child care homes

Teen student support homes are family child care homes formally associated with a high school; they provide child care to children of parents attending the high school. Teen student support family child care homes are regulated to care for up to six children, depending on their ages. The provider can provide no more than a total of 75 hours of care in one 24 hour period.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[Play and exploration: Early learning program guide](#)

Use of the guide is not mandatory for regulated child care centres but it is intended that all early learning programs will reflect the vision, principles and quality elements it describes.

[Play and exploration for infants and toddlers](#)

A set of [Play and exploration workshops](#) using the program guide and infant and toddler companion booklet are available and open to the early learning and child care sector who wish to learn how to implement *Play and exploration* in their early learning and child care spaces.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Saskatchewan uses the term children with diverse needs)

The [Child Care Inclusion Program](#) provides support to families and child care facilities to include children with diverse needs in child care programs. Inclusion funding is available to child care centres and regulated child care homes providing child care for a child with diverse needs.

Funding covers all eligible children. Supports may include additional staff, additional training/professional development for regular staff, purchase of assistive devices and equipment, and modification of the premises or equipment to support mobility needs.

Centres and homes are not required to accept and include children with diverse needs.

A child with diverse needs refers to a child who is assessed by an individual with the appropriate qualifications as having one or more cognitive, physical, social, emotional, behavioural or language needs that require significant

additional support. Children must be referred by a qualified professional who is autonomous from the facility, has a demonstrated knowledge of the child and the area related to the specific needs of the child, and is available to provide consultation and support to the child care facility and to the family.

The Individual Inclusion Grant is available to assist with the additional cost of supervising a child with diverse needs in an amount not to exceed \$300 per month.

The Enhanced Accessibility Grant is available to assist with the additional cost of supervising a child with exceptionally high diverse needs in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 per month. Individual Inclusion grants and Enhanced Accessibility grants are approved for a maximum period of 12 months. Prior to the expiration of the grant, the program must be reviewed and the facility must re-apply in order for funding to continue.

The Adapted Equipment Grant is available to assist with the cost of purchasing adapted equipment required to meet the needs of a child with diverse needs in an amount not to exceed \$600 in a year, or in exceptional circumstances \$1,200 in a year.

In addition, the Training and Resource Grant is available to assist with the registration for training events and resources for child care professionals working with children with diverse needs in an amount not to exceed \$100 in a year (\$200 for Enhanced Accessibility). Eligibility for the grant may be considered outside of eligibility for the Individual Inclusion and Enhanced Accessibility grants.

Hope's Home provides inclusive child care services to children with complex medical needs and their families, in facilities designed specifically in recognition of the needs of medically fragile children. Typically developing children and families also use these services. The organization operates four child care centres in the province.

Funding is also provided to two early childhood intervention programs in Regina and Saskatoon to fund a developmental consultant in each community who works to build the capacity in regulated child care centres and homes. This initiative is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Saskatchewan's Early Learning Portal contains resources regarding inclusive practices. See: [Resources – Inclusion](#) for further information.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT CHILD CARE

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

Saskatchewan does not typically regulate or fund First Nations child care programs on reserve. Since 2001, at the request of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, monitoring child care in Indigenous communities on reserve has been the responsibility of First Nations. However, in 2016, the Child Care Regulations were amended to allow licensing of a child care centre on reserve through agreement between an Indian Band and the Minister.

Currently, there are two child care centres on reserve regulated and funded by the province. These are located on land owned by Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Starblanket First Nation. These spaces are included in the overall provincial space statistics.

In addition, there are two child care centres currently in development on reserve by Cowessess First Nation.

Number of regulated spaces on reserve

Infants	18
Toddlers	45
Preschool-age	68
Before- and after-school	15
Total licensed spaces	146

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

There are no licensed family child care providers on reserve.

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) is not regulated. There are 77 AHSOR programs in Saskatchewan.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE OTHER THAN ON RESERVE

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs are not regulated. There are 15 AHSUNC programs in Saskatchewan.

OTHER INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC RESOURCES/ INITIATIVES

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies offers ECE courses and professional development opportunities. In 2022, under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Saskatchewan entered into an agreement with the Institute to make ECE training available at no charge.

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Saskatchewan has committed to develop and fund a plan to ensure that new space creation ensures diverse and/or vulnerable children and families including indigenous children have spaces equivalent to or greater than their share of the population in Saskatchewan.

SPACE STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REGULATED SPACES (March 31, 2021)

Centre spaces

Full-day centres

Infants (6 weeks – <18 months)	1,479
Toddlers (18 – <30 months)	3,840
Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years) (including children in kindergarten part-day)	8,416

TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 5 years) 13,735

Note: Preschool-age spaces and total spaces 0 – 5 years includes 6-year-olds attending kindergarten, which is usually part-day.

Before- and after-school care (licensed)

Total number of spaces in before- and after-school care for children in Grades 1 – 6	1,625
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TOTAL CENTRE SPACES (0 – 12 years) 15,360

Regulated family child care

Family child care homes

Total family child care enrolment	778
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Note: Breakdowns by age group are not available

Family child care homes (more than one provider)

Total group family child care enrolment	1,528
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Note: Breakdowns by age group are not available.

TOTAL REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE SPACES (enrolment) 2,306

TOTAL REGULATED SPACES
(centres spaces and family child care enrolment) **17,666**

Number of child care centres (2021)
Total number of centres **346**

Centre-based programs

Number of centres providing a full-day program	346
Number of centres providing a part-day licensed program for children attending school (Grades 1 – 6)	231
Number of centres providing infant care (6 weeks – <18 months)	218
Number of centres providing toddler care (18 – <30 months)	323
Number of centres providing preschool-age (30 months – 5 years) (includes 5-year-olds attending kindergarten)	328
Number of centres providing non-standard hours care	2
Number of centres in publicly delivered and funded schools	144

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

Number of regulated family child care homes

Number of individual family child care homes (active)	106
Number of group family child care homes (active)	136

Municipal delivery

Number of municipalities or municipal entities that operate child care centres	3
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Note: The towns of Carnduff, the Rural Municipality of Pittville No. 169 (Hazlet), and the Village of Vibank each operate one centre.

Programs by auspice (2021)

	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	7
Non-profit	336
Publicly operated ¹	5

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

Note: This represents three municipalities and two programs operated by First Nations.

Centre spaces by auspice

	<i>Full-day spaces</i>	<i>BASC spaces¹</i>	<i>Total spaces</i>
For-profit	263	12	275
Non-profit	13,238	1,585	14,823
Publicly operated ²	234	28	262

¹ Before- and after-school care (4 – 13 years) spaces
² Municipality/municipal entity, school authority, other government agency or Indigenous governance organization

Note: There are no part-day centre spaces (preschools) for 0-5 year olds as Saskatchewan does not require them to be licensed.

For a profile of child care auspice in Saskatchewan, see [Risky Business](#).

FEE SUBSIDIES (MARCH 2021)

	<i>Number of children</i>
Partial subsidy	326
Full subsidy	1,114

TOTAL CHILDREN RECEIVING FEE SUBSIDIES **1,440**

SPECIAL NEEDS/DISABILITY SUPPORT FUNDING (MARCH 2021)

Children in licensed child care receiving special needs/disability support funding **281**

For a list of all licensed programs and services in Saskatchewan, see this [directory](#).

PARENT FEES

On November 19, 2021, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced that as a first step towards making child care more affordable for children aged 0 – 5 years, funding would be provided to regulated facilities to reduce parents’ out-of-pocket child care fees by 50% on average, retroactive to July 1, 2021. This initial reduction was intended to be the first step towards reaching the 2025 – 2026 goal of, on average, \$10 a day regulated child care in Saskatchewan.

Families began paying the reduced fees effective February 1, 2022.

In March 2023, Saskatchewan announced that a maximum parent fee of \$10 a day will begin April 1, 2023.

PROVINCIAL DATA ON AVERAGE FEES

Average monthly parent fees (2021 and 2022)

	Full-time average monthly fee (2021)	Full-time average monthly fee (2022)
Centres		
Infant	\$790	\$414
Toddler	\$666	\$351
Preschool-age	\$612	\$327
School-age (school year)	\$440	\$439
	Full-time average monthly fee (2021)	Full-time average monthly fee (2022)
Family child care homes		
Infant	\$786	\$434
Toddler	\$734	\$405
Preschool-age	\$667	\$371
School-age (school year)	\$469	\$472

Note: The above 2022 fees were further reduced in fall 2022 by 70% of the 2021 fees.

Median monthly fees in Saskatchewan:

Annual Fee Survey

In 2021, an annual national survey of child care fees in Canada's larger cities included the following Saskatchewan cities:

Median monthly fees for full-time child care

City	Infant	Toddler	Preschool-age
Saskatoon	\$993	\$825	\$755
Regina	\$878	\$675	\$625

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

Provincial certification is required for all staff who work with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children for 65 hours or more per month in a regulated child care centre.

The Ministry of Education oversees applications and issues certificates. Certification does not have to be renewed unless it is an application for a higher certification level.

There are three levels of early childhood certification.

ECE Level I

- A post-secondary ECE orientation course; or
- Nine credit units (three courses) in ECE – one course from each of three areas: child development, programming, and relationships.

ECE Level II

- One-year ECE certificate or an equivalent combination of post secondary coursework.

ECE Level III

- Two-year ECE diploma or an equivalent combination of post-secondary coursework.

For more information, visit the [Early childhood educator certification website](#).

STAFF WAGES

To date, wages and benefits of early childhood educators and child care workers have been set by each employer. Development and implementation of a wage grid will be funded through the [Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#). The wage grid was to be developed in 2022 – 2023.

Provincial data on average fees

Mean hourly wages for full-time positions in child care centres by position and ECE certification on March 31, 2021.

Director/Acting director	\$25.70
Assistant director	\$22.45
Supervisor	\$19.06
Child care	\$17.02
Enhanced accessibility	\$15.91
All Positions	\$18.45

Source: Early Learning and Child Care System

In November 2021, a [wage increase](#) of up to \$3/hour for qualified ECEs was introduced as part of the one-time federal workforce funding announced as an extension of the [2017 Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#). The wage increase, retroactive to July 1, 2021, varied by staff certification level, with up to \$1/hour, \$2/hour and \$3/hour for ECE certification levels I, II and III respectively.

On September 15, 2022, an additional \$2/hour increase for ECEs was announced. This increase is capped at \$3, \$4 or \$5 above Saskatchewan’s March 31, 2021 average provincial wages for certification level and position type.

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

<i>Median annual employment income</i>	\$34,000
<i>Median hourly employment income</i>	\$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 licensed under the authority of the [Child Care Act](#) and [Child Care Regulations](#).

Maximum centre size: 90 spaces, with no more than 12 infant spaces.

Staffing requirements for centre-based programs

Staff:child ratio and maximum group size for single age category

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Staff:child ratio</i>	<i>Maximum group size</i>
Infants (0 – < 18 months)	1:3	6
Toddlers (19 – 29 months)	1:5	10
Preschool-age (30 months – 6 years)	1:10	20
School-age (Grade 1 – 12 years)	1:15	30

Note: Maximum group sizes do not apply before 9:00 a.m., during the last hour of operation in a day, during meal times, during nap times for children who are resting, or during special activities such as parties or concerts.

For a group of mixed age children, the staff:child ratio is 1:15, where the number of children is determined as:

- one infant is deemed to be equivalent to five children;
- one toddler is deemed to be equivalent to three children;
- one preschool child is deemed to be equivalent to 1.5 children; and
- one school-age child counts as one child.

Early childhood qualification staffing requirements

This section describes the minimum staff qualification requirements for a regulated centre 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).

In Saskatchewan, early childhood qualification staffing requirements are required at a centre level.

Twenty percent of staff must have ECE III certification and an additional 30% of staff must have ECE II certification; these percentages include the centre director and supervisor. The remainder of staff employed 65 hours or more per month must have ECE I certification.

A centre director must have ECE level III certification.

A centre supervisor must have at least an ECE level I certification.

Other requirements

All child care staff must be at least 16 years of age. A centre director or centre supervisor must be at least 18 years of age.

All staff members working 65 hours or more per month (centre director, supervisor or child care worker) must have completed a first aid course and a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course. At least one staff person who has completed a first aid course must be on the premises during operating hours.

All staff must complete a criminal record check (including a vulnerable sector check) before employment.

For more information, see [Child Care Licensee Manual](#).

Exemptions to early childhood qualification requirements for centre staff

If it is unable to hire certified staff, a centre may apply for an exemption. The application must include an education plan to ensure the staff hired will meet certification requirements within a reasonable period, with a minimum of two relevant courses completed within 12 months.

Between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, 754 exemptions were approved.

Note: An individual may have been issued two exemptions in this time period, so the total number of individuals issued with an exemption is less than 754.

Exemptions to early childhood qualification requirements for centre director and supervisor

An individual who was appointed as a centre director before July 1, 2001 is not required to meet the qualifications of an ECE level III but must meet the qualifications of an ECE level II.

For more information, see [Saskatchewan early childhood educator exemption guide for child care centre boards and employees](#) or visit the Saskatchewan early childhood educator certification website.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Licensing

A licence to operate a centre is usually issued for a period of one year and is not transferable. A facility that does not comply with the requirements of the *Act* or the Regulations may be issued a provisional licence for a maximum of six months.

Provisional licences can be issued for up to six months. At the expiration date of the provisional licence, if the conditions are met, a regular licence will be issued. If the conditions are not met, another provisional licence may be issued or the licence may be revoked.

Only non-profit corporations, co-operatives or municipalities are eligible to receive government funding and to apply for a “developmental licence” that authorizes an operator to develop, renovate, or construct new child care spaces in a centre. For-profit services that meet the requirements are eligible to be regulated but are not eligible for operational funding or to receive fee subsidies for eligible children.

Monitoring

Child care facilities receive two unscheduled visits per year and an annual review. Licences are renewed annually as part of an annual assessment of licensing standards for facilities. If a centre is found to be in non-compliance, a provisional licence is issued to the facility which notes the requirements not met and the expectation that the facility will work toward compliance.

In spring 2021, Saskatchewan began implementing a differential monitoring system for child care, using a risk-based approach to licensing.

Parent involvement

A non-profit child care centre must have a board of directors, the majority of whom are parents of children enrolled or were enrolled at the centre within the past 12 months. This requirement for a parent majority board may be waived, in which case the licensee must establish a parent advisory committee composed of parents or elected by parents of children enrolled in the centre.

REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE

In Saskatchewan, the term family child care home is used to refer to family child care. Family child care homes are regulated under the [Child Care Act](#) and [Child Care Regulations](#).

Family child care must be provided in a residential premise.

Model of organization

All family child care homes including group family child care homes and teen support family child care homes are individually licensed.

Maximum capacity

Family child care home

Up to eight children (including the provider’s own children under 10 years) between six weeks and 12 years old are permitted. Of the eight children, only five may be infants, toddlers or preschool-age children (younger than six years). Of these five, only two may be infants or toddlers (younger than 30 months).

Group family child care home

Up to 12 children (including the provider’s own children under 10 years) are permitted. Of the 12 children, only 10 may be infants, toddlers or preschool-age children. Of these 10, only five may be infants or toddlers and of these five, only three may be infants.

An assistant must be present when the number and ages of children permitted in a family child care home are exceeded.

Teen student support family child care home

Up to six children (including the provider’s own children under 10 years). Of these six children, no more than four may be infants, toddlers or preschool-age children. Of these four, only two may be infants or toddlers.

Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement

A licence to operate a family child care home is usually issued for a period of one year and is not transferable. A facility that does not comply with the requirements of the *Act* or the Regulations may be issued a provisional licence for a maximum of six months.

Early Learning and Child Care consultants from the Ministry conduct annual visits to renew the licence in addition to a minimum of two unscheduled/drop in visits throughout the year.

For more information, see [Child Care Licensee Manual](#).

Requirements for family child care providers

Within the first year of becoming regulated, family child care providers must complete a 40 hour introductory course in early childhood education.

Within the first three years of becoming regulated, the licensee of a group family child care home must meet ECE I requirements.

A family child care provider and assistant must each complete a minimum of six hours/year of continuing education related to working with children. This includes self-directed learning.

A family child care home or group family child care home provider must be a resident of Saskatchewan and at least 18 years of age.

A family child care licensee must have completed a first aid course including CPR training and a criminal records search (including a vulnerable sector check).

An assistant must be at least 18 years of age, complete a criminal records search (including a vulnerable sector check). The assistant must also complete a first aid and CPR course within six months of being employed.

Other residents of the family child care home 18 years or older are required to have a criminal records search (including a vulnerable sector check).

FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Only non-profit and municipal child care services receive public funding, including operating (base) funding, capital funding and fee subsidies.

Family child care providers are eligible to receive fee subsidies, start-up grants and some operational grants.

TYPES OF FUNDING

FEE SUBSIDIES

The Child Care Subsidy Program (CCS) is administered by the Ministry of Social Services.

Fee subsidies are paid on a monthly basis to service providers on behalf of a subsidized parent to replace all or some of the fee.

The family's eligibility is determined based on social and financial criteria.

All eligible families are able to access a fee subsidy.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a child care subsidy, individuals must:

- have lawful custody of a child or children under the age of 13 years who receive care in a regulated facility;
- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada;
- be residents of Saskatchewan; and
- have a valid reason for needing care including:
 - employment or self-employment;
 - attendance at an educational institution;
 - looking for work;
 - involvement in a pre-employment program approved by the Ministry; or
 - special medical or social needs.

Self-employed parents may be eligible for fee subsidies. In this case, subsidies are based on the net income reported in the previous year or an estimate of net income for the current year for newly self-employed individuals.

Financial eligibility

Subsidy eligibility is based on gross family income, family size, the age of a child, the location of a child care facility, and the actual fee charged.

Subsidy eligibility 2021

	Maximum Income for full subsidy	Income at which partial subsidy ends
One parent, one child	\$19,800	\$36,720
Two parents, two children	\$21,000	\$72,720

Service providers' eligibility to deliver subsidized child care

Not-for-profit child care centres (including publicly operated centres) and regulated family child care homes are eligible to deliver subsidized child care, and subsidies are available for both full-time and part-time care.

Surcharges above the fee subsidy

Subsidy rates do not cover full fees. Parents are responsible for paying the difference between the fee and the amount of subsidy they receive, or 10% of the fee, whichever is greater.

Families receiving assistance through the Saskatchewan Income Support program may be eligible for subsidies sufficient to cover the entire fee.

Maximum subsidy rates (2021)

The [subsidy rate](#) is the amount paid by the provincial/territorial government to the service on behalf of an eligible parent to cover all or part of the parent fee.

Maximum subsidy rates in regulated centres and family child care homes (2021)

Age range	Tier 1		Tier 2		Tier 3	
	Centre	Family child care	Centre	Family child care	Centre	Family child care
Infant	\$570	\$485	\$485	\$415	\$410	\$410
Toddler	\$440	\$440	\$390	\$390	\$375	\$375
Preschool-age	\$405	\$405	\$350	\$350	\$340	\$340
Kindergarten-age	\$365	\$356	\$325	\$325	\$315	\$315
School-age (July–August)	\$385	\$385	\$340	\$340	\$330	\$330
School-age (September–June)	\$275	\$275	\$245	\$245	\$230	\$230

* or 90% of the actual fee charged, whichever is less

Tier 1: Regina, Saskatoon and communities in the Northern Administrative District

Tier 2: Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Battlefords, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Nipawin, Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Martensville, Warman, White Cap Dakota First Nation

Tier 3: other cities, towns and rural areas

For details of part-time subsidy rates see: [Saskatchewan fee subsidy rates](#).

Effective February 2022, the Child Care Subsidy program was revised to provide an adjusted subsidy rate for existing and newly subsidized parents with children ages 0 – 5, following implementation of the Parent Fee Reduction Grant. See [Saskatchewan fee subsidy rates](#).

Additional programs that subsidize individual families

Under certain circumstances, if a family is accessing the Saskatchewan Income Support Program, the provincial government may pay for unregulated child care on an individual case-by-case basis.



OPERATIONAL FUNDING

Early Childhood Services Grant – Centres

The Early Childhood Services Grant is provided to regulated, non-profit centres operating outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, to support ongoing operating and staffing costs.

Maximum grant for Teen Support Centres (June 2021)

Age group	Amount/month/space
Infant	\$690
Toddler	\$414
Preschool-age	\$207
School-age	\$138

Maximum grant for extended hours centres operating less than 120 hours per week

Age group	Amount/month/space
Infant	\$862.50
Toddler	\$517.50
Preschool-age	\$258.75
School-age	\$172.50

Note: Maximum grants for centres providing extended hours care for 120 hours per week or more can be found online in the [Saskatchewan Child Care Licensee Manual Section 83.1](#).

Early Childhood Services Grant – Northern centres

This monthly operating grant is provided to regulated, non-profit centres to support ongoing operating and staffing costs to provide child care services in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.

Maximum grant for non-profit full-time centres or student support centres located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District

Age group	Amount/month/space
Infant	\$720
Toddler	\$432
Preschool-age	\$216
School-age	\$144

Note: Maximum grants for Northern Saskatchewan centres providing extended hours care for less than 120 hours per week or more can be found online in the [Saskatchewan Child Care Licensee Manual Section 83.1](#).

Parent Fee Reduction Grant

On November 19, 2021 new funding was announced as part of the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. [The Parent Fee Reduction grant](#) is operating funding provided directly to regulated facilities and from the Early Childhood Services Grant to reduce fees for all families with children under 6 years in regulated child care.

The initial commitment was to reduce parent fees by an average of 50% for children under the age of six in regulated care. The grant was retroactive to July 1, 2021 with families receiving retroactive reimbursement of eligible fees paid.

In February 1, 2022, families began paying reduced fees to their child care provider.

A further reduction of parent fees began September 1, 2022, representing a 70% on average reduction.

It was announced in March 2023 that parent fees will be reduced again, to a maximum of \$10 a day as of April 1, 2023.

Maximum monthly grant amounts based on full-time care (2021 and 2022)

Centres	Effective July 1, 2021	Effective Sept 1, 2022
Infant (0 – 18 months)	\$395	\$553
Toddler (19 – 30 months)	\$333	\$466
Preschool (31 – 72 months)	\$306	\$428
Family child care		
Infant (0 – 18 months)	\$393	\$550
Toddler (19 – 30 months)	\$367	\$515
Preschool (31 – 72 months)	\$333	\$467

To calculate the maximum monthly grant amount, the ministry used full-time parent fee data collected from regulated centres and homes at annual reviews. The provincial average for each space type was then used to determine the fee reduction grant amounts.



Wage Enhancement for early childhood educators in child care centres

Since 2021, there have been several wage enhancement increases totalling as much as \$5 per hour for certified ECEs with funding from both the Canada-Saskatchewan Multilateral Framework agreement and the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

In August 2021, ECEs certified as an ECE I, II or III received an hourly wage enhancement of up to \$1, \$2 or \$3 per hour, respectively. This increase was capped at \$1, \$2 and \$3 above the average provincial wage for each certification level and position type (those with higher earnings did not receive the wage enhancement). This wage enhancement grant covered the period of July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Effective September 1, 2022, another Wage Enhancement Grant provided an additional increase of up to \$2 per hour for certified ECEs, depending on their level of certification. This additional wage increase is intended to support the recruitment and retention of certified ECEs as Saskatchewan works towards developing a provincial wage grid by the end of 2022 – 23.

Inclusion grants

The Child Care Inclusion Program provides support to child care facilities to include children with diverse needs in child care programs.

Regulated non-profit child care centres are approved to apply for Individual Inclusion and Enhanced Accessibility Grant funding for children in up to 15% of their regulated spaces; an approval may be requested to a maximum of 25% of regulated spaces.

Regulated child care homes may apply for funding for one Individual Inclusion or Enhanced Accessibility Grant for an enrolled child with diverse needs. Approval for an increased number of Inclusion grants may be requested to a maximum of two Inclusion grants in family child care homes and teen student support family child care homes and a maximum of three in a group family child care home.

Individual Inclusion Grants

As of June 2021, Individual Inclusion Grants are provided to an operator (centre, home, group family home) based on an individual child with additional needs.

The maximum grant to assist with additional costs of supervising the child is \$300/month for a maximum of one year, when the service must reapply.

The maximum grant to assist with the purchase of adapted equipment required to meet the needs of an individual child is \$600/year (\$1,200/year if, in the Director's opinion, there are exceptional circumstances).

The maximum grant to assist with the cost of training employees (other than supervision and assistive devices) is \$100/year.

Enhanced Accessibility Grants

As of June 2021, Enhanced Accessibility Grants are provided to a child care service for an individual child with exceptionally high needs.

The maximum grant to assist with the additional costs of supervising the child, for up to one year is \$2,000 per month. The maximum grant for purchase of adapted equipment to support the child is \$600/year (\$1,200/year if, in the Director's opinion, there are exceptional circumstances).

The maximum grant to assist with the training of employees (other than supervision and assistive devices) is \$200/year.

Northern transportation grants

This funding is available to non-profit centres located within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District for transportation of children where public transportation is not available. The maximum grant is \$20/month for a child who is provided with transportation to the centre.

Equipment and program grants for family child care homes

These grants are available to family child care homes, group family child care homes and or teen student support family child care homes to purchase toys, equipment, furnishings, craft supplies and activities. The maximum grant that may be available is [\\$300/year/space](#).

A maximum of 15% of the funding can be spent on children's activities (bus fare, admission fees for museums, parks, leisure centres, festivals and science facilities).

Teen Student Support Centre and Family Child Care

This funding is for ongoing costs associated with centres and family child care specifically for teen parents. Maximum grant for centres is \$810/month/infant space and \$680/month/toddler space. The amount per teen student support centre may not exceed \$76,860/year.

The maximum grant for a family child care home is \$350/month/teen student support space.

Child Care Home Nutrition Grant

The nutrition grant for family child care homes is to assist with provision of well-balanced, nutritious meals and snacks.

As of June 2021, the maximum grant/month/regulated space in a home located outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District was increased from \$60 to \$80/space and within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District from \$80 to \$100/space.

ONE-TIME FUNDING

Space development funding: Start-up grants

Start-up grants – Centres

Start-up funds are available for the cost of opening a new centre, increasing the number of spaces in an existing centre, and with the design of an enriched learning environment. The maximum amount is \$861/space.

Start-up grants – Family child care homes and group family child care homes

Start-up grants are available for the cost of opening a child care home and design of an enriched learning environment. The grant recognizes the increased cost associated with opening a family child care home or group family care home in Northern Saskatchewan.

Type of home and location

	<i>Before June 2021</i>	<i>After June 2021</i>
Family child care homes		
Outside Northern		
Saskatchewan	\$2,825	\$3,325
In Northern Saskatchewan	\$3,275	\$3,775
Group family child care homes		
Outside Northern		
Saskatchewan	\$3,025	\$3,525
In Northern Saskatchewan	\$3,525	\$4,025

In addition, providers that change licences from a family child care home to a group family child care home are eligible to receive \$400 per licence.

Space Development Capital Grants – Centres

The child care regulations provide for a one-time capital grant to assist with costs of developing, renovating or constructing new child care spaces in a centre. The maximum grant is \$3,360/new space. Funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement has enabled the space development capital grant to be increased to a maximum of \$10,000 per space.

Fire, Health and Safety Grant

A fire, health and safety grant is to assist new operators (or provisional licence holders) of family child care homes, group family child care homes and teen support family homes with the costs of meeting fire, health and safety requirements, as part of the initial licensing process. The maximum grant is \$2,400 per new licence.

Professional Development Grants for Regulated Child Care

Professional Development Grants are available for professional development events that are delivered, sponsored/funded or supported by the Early Years Branch, Ministry of Education. Professional development can be in person or online.

Non-profit and for-profit facilities are eligible for PD grant funding and every regulated facility is eligible to receive a maximum PD grant based on the number of spaces and type of care. The maximum amount that centre directors and supervisors (or home providers) can claim under the Professional Development Grant is \$300 per staff to a maximum based on the number of spaces in a centre or home.

- centres with 30 or fewer spaces: maximum of \$1,500/centre;
- centres with 31 – 60 spaces: maximum of \$2,500/centre;
- centres with 61 – 90 spaces: maximum of \$3,500/centre;
- homes: maximum of \$300 per family child care provider; or
- group family child care: maximum \$300/provider; \$300/assistant.

Tuition Reimbursement Grant

Tuition reimbursement grants are available to service providers for reimbursement of tuition fees paid and required books purchased for ECE courses successfully completed by a care provider or a person employed in a facility of \$500 per individual course taken by the individual.

Tuition Reimbursement Grant Top-Up

Child care facilities with educators who are pursuing an ECE I, II, or III but who are not participating in a cohort-based or an accelerated ECE I, II, or III program offered by a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution, may be eligible for a Tuition Reimbursement Grant Top-Up to cover the complete cost of the course (tuition and required books). This initiative is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Training Initiative Grant

Child care facilities with educators participating in a formal education training program may be eligible to receive the Training Initiative Grant of up to \$500 per month for each course an educator is enrolled in, to a maximum of \$1,500 per month per educator.

This grant is intended to support costs for a substitute or alternate child care provider while an educator pursues studies leading to an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) I, II or III. This enables educators to receive their regular wages while they are provided time off to pursue formal education, and the facility is supported with wage replacement costs (e.g., hourly wage and employer deductions) for substitutes or alternate child care providers. This initiative is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Enhancement Grant

Introduced in 2021 – 2022, the ELCC Workforce Enhancement Grant is a one-time grant for regulated and operational child care centres to support recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood educators (ECEs). The grant is calculated as \$145 per licensed child care space. The ELCC Workforce Enhancement Grant is intended to be flexible to enable boards to use funding to meet their centre’s need. This initiative was made available again in 2022 – 2023 and is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Change Management Grant

The Change Management Grant is a one-time grant for regulated and operational child care centres and homes to respond to changes emerging from the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The grant is calculated at \$200 per regulated child care space.

The Change Management Grant is intended to be flexible to enable boards and child care home providers to use funding to meet their facility’s needs. Child care facilities are investing additional resources and time as the province progresses towards the goal of \$10 per day child care. New administrative skills and tools may need to be acquired as facilities shift to a system built on principles of accessibility, quality, inclusion and affordability.

OTHER FUNDING

Preschool Support

This grant supports two long-standing Preschool Support Programs in Regina and La Loche aimed at providing part-day integrated programming for at-risk preschool children. These are preventative programs to improve health, social skills and potential for success in school, particularly among at-risk children.

Early Childhood Initiatives

Through this initiative, the Early Years Branch provides support to the Odyssey Child Care Centre located on the Alberta side of Lloydminster in support of Saskatchewan children attending the facility.

Early Learning Program Guide (ELPG)

The Ministry of Education provides a range of resources and supports to assist the child care and pre-kindergarten sector implement *Play and Exploration* and enhance early learning programming. These include companion resources, professional development workshops, demonstration sites, and mentorship services.

Early Learning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Pilot

Introduced September 1, 2018, the Children Communicating, Connecting and in the Community (4Cs) program provides high quality early learning experiences and interventions for preschool-aged children who are Deaf/deaf or hard of hearing to grow and develop in an inclusive environment. The program supports the attainment and development of language and communication skills for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The two programs operating in the province are in Regina and Saskatoon.

The Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) Pilot

Introduced March 1, 2018, the Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) program creates additional spaces targeted to children experiencing significant disability in existing pre-kindergarten programs. The program provides the opportunity for children requiring intensive supports to attend pre-kindergarten in 26 school divisions throughout the province. The supports provided include an Educational Assistant as well as funding for specialized services to meet the needs of the children and enhance the knowledge and skills of the classroom educators.

Play and Exploration

Play and Exploration is a one-time grant for new child care centres and regulated family child care homes to purchase equipment and resources to enhance their early learning environments in alignment with the guidelines of *Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide*. The grant varies by facility and number of spaces:

- centres: \$2,500 for the first 30 spaces and \$75 per additional space; and
 - homes: \$600/family child care home and \$900/group family child care home.
-

Active Play

Active Play is a one-time grant for new child care centres and regulated family child care homes to purchase equipment and resources that support active play both indoors and outdoors. The grant varies by facility and number of spaces:

- centres: \$1,900 for the first 30 spaces and \$60 per additional space; and
 - homes: \$500/family child care home and \$750/group family child care home.
-

PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (2020 – 2021)

FEE SUBSIDIES **\$5,841,135**

OPERATIONAL (PREVIOUSLY RECURRING) FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Northern transportation grants	\$15,000
Equipment and program grants for family child care homes	\$322,000
Early Childhood Services Grant	\$49,889,000
Teen student child care centre support	\$3,100,000
Nutrition grants for family child care homes	\$1,719,000
Inclusion grants	\$235,000
Minority inclusion grants	\$293,000
Enhanced accessibility grants	\$5,637,000
Total operational funding	\$61,210,000

ONE-TIME FUNDING

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Space development funding: Start up grants	\$51,000
Space development: Capital grants	\$508,000

One-time funding – other

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Fire, health and safety grant	\$50,000
Tuition reimbursement grant	\$650,000
Early childhood training	\$1,477,000
Adaptive equipment	\$10,000

Total one-time funding **\$2,746,000**

**TOTAL FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE
(fee subsidies, operational funding,
one-time funding)** **\$69,797,135**

OTHER ELCC FUNDING

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Other provincial spending (Preschool support, Early Childhood Initiatives, ELPG Grant, Miscellaneous FPT)	\$1,568,000
Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot	\$4,250,000
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Pilot	\$217,000

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	\$13,841,000
Safe Restart Agreement (child care specific funding)	\$20,646,000

COVID-19 RELATED SUPPORTS

Supplementary Grant – School Based
(supplementary grant funding was made available
to 47 school-based centres providing services
to essential workers associated with the
response to the pandemic) **\$2,282,000**

OF INTEREST

MUNICIPAL ROLE

While there is no mandated role for municipalities in Saskatchewan child care, a number of municipalities, all small and rural, have voluntarily assumed the responsibility of supporting, and in some instances, operating these centres. In 2022, three municipalities operated child care centres.

FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

[Early Years Family Resource Centres](#) provide a single location where families with children under the age of six can access information, programs and services to support their children's development and family wellness. Services include:

- play-based activity, family groups, art, music, movement or other preschool programming;
- parent education through formal and informal learning opportunities, drop-in programs and seminars;
- family wellness and support initiatives; and
- information and referral services.

There are 12 operational Early Years Family Resource Centres located in the Battlefords, Estevan, Humboldt, La Ronge, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, and Yorkton; three new FRC are in development in the communities of Lloydminster, Swift Current, and Weyburn.

PROVINCIAL ECEC ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

[Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association](#)

[Child Care Now Saskatchewan](#)