



Saskatchewan

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Saskatchewan

■ OVERVIEW

In Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Education is responsible for regulated full-day child care centres, family child care, group family child care, prekindergarten, kindergarten, and before- and after-school child care.

Licensed child care in Saskatchewan includes full-day child care centres, family child care, group family child care, and before- and after-school child care. Part-day preschools and stand-alone school-age programs in schools do not require a licence.

Most centre-based child care is delivered by non-profit operators, with a small but growing number of publicly operated and for-profit programs. Almost all public funding is available only to non-profit and public programs.

Family child care providers and group family child care homes are individually licensed.

Part-day prekindergarten is operated in schools and intended for vulnerable three- and four-year-olds in targeted communities. In 2025, there were 316 prekindergarten programs. Kindergarten for five-year-olds is a part or full school-day program, depending on the school division; all eligible children have access. Prekindergarten and kindergarten are not compulsory.

Since April 1, 2023, parent fees have been set at \$10/day (\$217/month) for children under age six in licensed non-profit and public centres, family child care homes, and for-profit centres opened before January 1, 2023. For-profit centres that opened after January 1, 2023, are not eligible for reduced parent fee funding. Fees for school-age children six years or older are set by the operator. The Child Care Subsidy Program ended on March 31, 2025, and the province no longer has a stand-alone child care subsidy program. Eligible families can use the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive program benefit toward child care costs. Administered by the Ministry of Social Services, these funds are paid directly to parents as part of a broader program for low-income families.

Saskatchewan does not have a wage grid. Wages and benefits of early childhood educators and child care workers are set by each employer, with additional compensation through wage enhancement for all certified early childhood educators and assistants working in group family child care homes.

Saskatchewan signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement in August 2021. This agreement allocated \$996 million over five years to the province.

In November 2025, Saskatchewan extended its bilateral agreement until 2031.

Net growth in full-day centre spaces for children 0 – 5 years (2021 – 2025)			
	<i>2021</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>Increase (decrease) 2021 – 2025</i>
Non-profit and public	13,472	16,624	+3,152
For-profit	263	851	+588
Total full-day spaces	13,735	17,475	+3,740
Percentage of full-day spaces that were for-profit	1.9%	4.9%	+3%
Percentage of growth of full-day spaces that was for-profit	-	-	16%

■ PROVINCIAL CONTEXT

Some of the following figures are rounded; however, the totals are based on exact figures. Therefore, totals may not equal the sum of the rounded figures.

Number of children 0 – 12 years (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	11,000
1	10,900
2	13,600
3	12,800
4	13,100
5	14,600
6	14,000
7	16,100
8	15,700
9	15,100
10	15,500
11	15,800
12	15,200
Total	183,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	35,500
3 – 5	40,500
6 – 12	107,400
Total	183,500

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0	7,300
1	7,500
2	9,000
3	8,100
4	8,700
5	9,400
6	10,100
7	11,000
8	11,600
9	10,100
10	11,800
11	11,000
12	10,700
Total	126,200

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (aggregated) (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number of children</i>
0 – 2	23,800
3 – 5	26,200
6 – 12	76,300
Total	126,200

Number of children 0 – 14 years 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 (2024 rounded estimate)

<i>Age of youngest child</i>	<i>Number of mothers</i>	<i>Participation rate (%)</i>
0 – 3	26,700	77.8
4 – 5	11,500	79.9
0 – 5	38,200	78.4
6 – 12	39,000	86.9

Living arrangements by age of child (2021)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Living with two parents</i>	<i>Living with one parent</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Lone mother</i>	<i>Lone father</i>	
0 – 4	53,595	10,670	2,380	13,050
5 – 9	56,225	13,155	3,760	16,920
10 – 14	54,005	14,570	4,380	18,950

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 0 – 5 years (2020)

<i>Two-parent families</i>	<i>Male lone parent</i>	<i>Female lone parent</i>
\$100,000	\$46,000	\$46,000

KINDERGARTEN POLICY, PROGRAMS, AND DATA

KINDERGARTEN FOR FOUR- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

Provincial responsibility

Ministry of Education

Early Years Branch

Phone: 306-787-2004

Email: learning.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Website: saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/prek-12-education-early-learning-and-schools

Legislation

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. [Education Act](#). SS1995, C E-0.2. Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. [Education Regulations](#), 2019. Chapter E-0.2 Reg 29. Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. [Registered Teachers Act](#). Amended 2020 c.9.

Provision

Kindergarten provision

Definition	Part or full school-day program for five-year-old children.
Eligibility	Five years old by December 31, with some variation across school divisions.
Compulsory schooling	Not compulsory, but almost all eligible children attend.
Entitlement	All eligible children have access.
Instructional hours per day	Part-day every day (approximately two hours and 50 minutes), full school-day every other day, or full school-day every day, depending on the school division. Minimum 475 hours per year.
Class size	No set class sizes.

Prekindergarten provision

Definition	Part-day program operated in schools and intended for vulnerable three- and four-year-old children in targeted communities. In 2025, there were 316 programs.
Eligibility	Three- and four-year-olds in targeted communities or those who meet specified eligibility criteria .
Compulsory schooling	Not compulsory.
Entitlement	No entitlement. School divisions use the eligibility criteria to select children, prioritizing four-year-olds.
Instructional hours per day	Part-day (minimum 12 hours per week for 10 months of the year; usually three hours per day), but full school-day Monday to Thursday in some cases.
Class size	Maximum 16 children, or maximum 18 children if the program also has Early Learning Intensive Support spaces with the accompanying support.

Teacher qualifications and certification

To be a qualified kindergarten teacher in Saskatchewan requires a valid teacher's certificate issued by the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB) and annual registration with the SPTRB. To become certified, a teacher must obtain a degree in education through a university or a teacher education program approved by the SPTRB. Kindergarten teachers do not have specific early childhood qualification requirements.

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

■ CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Saskatchewan Curriculum: Kindergarten (2010) is a mandatory curriculum framework for kindergarten in all schools in Saskatchewan.

Children First: A Resource for Kindergarten (2009) is a supporting document to accompany *Saskatchewan Curriculum: Kindergarten* for kindergarten in all schools in Saskatchewan.

Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide (2008) is a voluntary curriculum framework for child care services and prekindergarten programs in Saskatchewan, but all early learning programs are intended to reflect the vision, principles, and quality elements it describes. It focuses on children ages 3 – 5. *Jouer et explorer: Guide du programme d'apprentissage pour la petite enfance* (2008) is the same curriculum framework in French.

Essential Learning Experiences for Three-, Four- and Five-Year Olds is a voluntary supporting document to *Play and Exploration*.

■ ENROLMENT

Kindergarten enrolment (2024 – 2025 school year)

Enrolment in public schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	13,078
Prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds	5,529

Enrolment in private/independent schools

Kindergarten for 5-year-olds	176
Prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds	36

Enrolment in Band Schools/First Nations

Kindergarten and prekindergarten	881
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Total kindergarten enrolment	14,135
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■ OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Early Learning Intensive Support

Introduced March 1, 2018, the Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS) program creates additional spaces targeted to children experiencing significant disability in existing prekindergarten programs. The program provides the opportunity for children requiring intensive support to attend prekindergarten. The support includes an educational assistant and funding for specialized services to meet the needs of the children and enhance the knowledge and skills of the classroom educators. In 2018, the program was piloted with 120 ELIS spaces available in Regina and Saskatoon school divisions; it has grown to 632 spaces available in 26 school divisions throughout the province. The total cost for the ELIS program in 2024 – 2025 was \$7.9 million.

Specialized prekindergarten program

Established in 2018 – 2019, specialized prekindergarten programs are intended to serve three- and four-year-old children with significant social-emotional, communication, and behavioural challenges that are beyond the capacity of supports available in the ELIS program or prekindergarten placement. A specialized prekindergarten program provides a tailored response for preschool-age children with intensive needs. There are five specialized prekindergarten programs, located in Regina and Saskatoon, with capacity to serve up to 46 children.

Children Communicating, Connecting, and in the Community

Developed in 2018 – 2019, the Children Communicating, Connecting, and in the Community (4C) program supports the attainment and development of language and communication



skills for prekindergarten-age children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The program provides bilingual instruction in both signed and oral language. There are two 4C programs, located in Regina and Saskatoon, with capacity to serve up to 27 children. Funding for 4C was \$269,000 in 2024 – 2025.

CHILD CARE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

■ ADMINISTRATION

Provincial responsibility

Ministry of Education

Child Care Operations

Phone: 1-855-824-9419

Email: childcare@gov.sk.ca

Website: saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care

Legislation

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Act, 2014](#). SS 2014, c. C-7.31.

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. [Child Care Regulations, 2015](#). RRS C-7.31 Reg 1.

The *Child Care Amendment Act, 2024* and accompanying regulations came into force in July 2025. The *Child Care (New Facilities) Amendment Act, 2025* is in process and scheduled to come into force in 2026.

Service descriptions

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

There are no health, safety, or training requirements or provision for public oversight in unregulated child care. There may be attention by public officials on a complaint basis. See the [Child Care Regulations](#) for more information.

Family child care

In unregulated family child care, the caregiver may care for a maximum of eight children under the age of 10 years. Five of these children may be infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children, of which only two may be infants and toddlers. If three infants and toddlers are in care, all other children must be school-age. These numbers include the caregiver's own children under 10 years.

Preschool

Children attend part-day preschools for no more than three hours per day. Historically, part-day preschools were not regulated. Amendments to the legislation, scheduled to come into force in 2026, specify that preschools may become licensed, although it will not be required. Newly licensed preschools may be operated by non-profit boards, cooperatives, and private individuals.

School-age child care

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

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Child care centre

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

Extended hours

Extended hours child care centres provide services for 80 hours or more per week.

School-age child care

Regulated 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 entered Grade 1. It can be provided in a mixed-age centre, family child care home, or a program solely for school-age children not located in a school.

Family child care

A family child care home is operated by an individual in a residential premises. A provider may care for up to eight children. The premises may be an owned or rented residential property in which the provider does not live. The licensee can

provide a total of no more than 100 child hours of care in one 24-hour period.

Group family child care

A group family child care home is operated by an individual and an assistant in a residential premises. Group family child care homes may care for up to 12 children. When new legislation takes effect in 2026, they may care for up to 16 children. The licensee can provide a total of no more than 150 child hours of care in one 24-hour period.

Teen student support family child care homes

Teen student support family child care homes were discontinued when the new regulations came into force in July 2025. Prior to July 2025, teen student support homes were family child care homes formally associated with a high school that provided child care to children of parents attending the high school. Providers cared for up to six children. The licensee could provide no more than a total of 75 child hours of care in one 24-hour period.

Teen student support centres

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

■ CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[*Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide*](#) (2008) is a curriculum framework for Saskatchewan’s child care services and prekindergarten programs. It is voluntary, but all early learning programs are intended to reflect the vision, principles, and quality elements it describes. It focuses on children ages 3 – 5 years.

[*Jouer et explorer: Guide du programme d'apprentissage pour la petite enfance*](#) (2008) is the same curriculum framework in French.

[*Essential Learning Experiences for Three-, Four- and Five-Year Olds*](#) is a supporting document to *Play and Exploration*.

[*Play and Exploration for Infants and Toddlers*](#) (2010) is a voluntary companion booklet focused on children ages 0 – 3 years.

■ CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Terminology and approach

Saskatchewan uses the term “children with diverse needs” to encompass children with disabilities.

All licensed child care is eligible to receive inclusion funding.

The province provides inclusion funding specific to the individual child.

Programs supporting inclusion in ELCC

The Child Care Inclusion Program provides support to families and child care facilities to include children with disabilities in child care programs. Inclusion funding is available to child care centres and regulated child care homes providing child care for a child with disabilities. Funding is available to support the inclusion of all eligible children. It covers additional staff, additional training or professional development for regular staff, assistive devices and equipment, and modification of the premises or equipment to support mobility needs.

The Individual Inclusion Grant, the Enhanced Accessibility Grant, the Adapted Equipment Grant, and the Training and Resource Grant are available to support children with disabilities in Saskatchewan.

The Individual Inclusion Grant is provided to an operator (centre, home, or group family home) to support an individual child with “additional needs.” It provides up to \$300 per month to assist

with the additional cost of supervising a child with disabilities.

The Enhanced Accessibility Grant is available to assist with the additional cost of supervising a child with “exceptionally high diverse needs.” Effective December 1, 2024, the maximum monthly grant amount was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,200.

Individual Inclusion Grants and Enhanced Accessibility Grants are approved for a maximum of 12 months, at which point the program must be reviewed and the facility must reapply for funding. Regulated non-profit child care centres are approved to apply for Individual Inclusion Grant and Enhanced Accessibility Grant funding for children in up to 15% of their regulated spaces; approval may be requested to a maximum of 25% of regulated spaces. Regulated child care homes may apply for funding for one Individual Inclusion Grant 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 in family child care homes and a maximum of three in a group family child care home.

The Adapted Equipment Grant assists with the cost of purchasing adapted equipment required to meet the needs of a child with disabilities. It provides up to \$600 a year or \$1,200 a year in exceptional circumstances.

The Training and Resource Grant provides up to \$100 in a year (\$200 for Enhanced Accessibility) to support participation in training and resources for child care professionals working with children with disabilities.

The Building Inclusive Practices initiative provides on-site support to create inclusive spaces and programs for all children. Child care centres participating in the initiative are paired with an inclusion coach who works with centre staff to build capacity and promote inclusivity in the centre.

Hope’s Home is a non-profit organization funded by the Saskatchewan government. It operates five medically inclusive child care centres in Saskatchewan, providing services for children with complex medical needs and their families. Children who are developing typically and their families also use these services.

Access to inclusive ELCC

Child care programs are not required to accept children with disabilities.

A referring professional must verify that a child requires additional supports in order to access funding through the Child Care Inclusion Program.

Newly constructed or renovated facilities are not required to be fully accessible and barrier-free.

In Saskatchewan, there may be some administrative delays in the application process for receiving inclusion funding, but typically the process is quite responsive.

■ FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT CHILD CARE

In Saskatchewan, 17% of the total population identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit in the most recent census (2021). There are 70 First Nations in Saskatchewan; some First Nations manage multiple reserves including urban satellite reserves. Almost 48% of First Nations people in Saskatchewan live on reserve.

First Nations child care on reserve

Saskatchewan does not typically regulate First Nations child care programs on reserve. Since 2001, at the request of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, First Nations have been responsible for monitoring child care on reserves. However, in 2016, the Child Care Regulations were amended to

allow licensing of a child care centre on reserve at their request and through agreement between an Indian Band and the Minister.

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

Current provincially regulated child care agreements with First Nations are with:

Cowessess First Nation (on reserve and urban reserve), Whitecap Dakota First Nation, and Star Blanket Cree Nation (First Nations University of Canada, urban reserve). These agreements provide 146 operational regulated centre-based child care spaces with an additional 130 spaces under development, for a total of 276 regulated child care spaces.

There are no licensed family child care providers on reserves.

The number of on-reserve child care centres that are not provincially licensed is not available.

Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve (AHSOR) is not licensed. In 2025, there were 77 AHSOR programs in Saskatchewan.

Indigenous child care other than on reserve

There are five licensed child care centres not on reserve operated by an Indigenous organization that primarily serve Indigenous children. These centres are First Nations-led or focused and operate a combined 339 spaces. These spaces are included in the overall provincial space statistics.

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) programs are not licensed. In 2025, there were 15 AHSUNC programs in Saskatchewan.

Indigenous-specific resources/initiatives

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 spaces for diverse and/or vulnerable children and families, and includes a provision that Indigenous children have spaces equivalent to or greater than their share of the population in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan collaborates with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT) and Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) to offer tuition-free Early Childhood Educator training, professional learning opportunities, and bursaries for Indigenous learners under the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. This includes the development and delivery of an advanced certificate in Indigenous ECE at SIIT. These training and professional development seats support Indigenous and Métis ECEs to receive training that reflects cultural values; they also build the knowledge base of the sector to understand and reflect Indigenous and Métis ways of knowing through their work.

■ PARENT FEES

Since April 1, 2023, parent fees have been set at \$10/day (\$217/month) for children under age six in licensed non-profit and public centres, family child care homes, and for-profit centres opened before January 1, 2023. For-profit centres that opened after January 1, 2023, are not eligible for reduced parent fee funding. The \$10/day fee applies to children under six years enrolled in an infant, toddler, preschool-age, or school-age space.

The operator sets fees for school-age children six years or older.

Monthly child care centre parent fees (2021, 2022, 2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Full-time average monthly fee (2021)</i>	<i>Full-time average monthly fee (2022)</i>	<i>Full-time set or average monthly fee (2024)</i>
Infant	\$790	\$414	\$217
Toddler	\$666	\$351	\$217
Preschool-age	\$612	\$327	\$217
School-age (school year)	\$440	\$439	\$455 (average, not set fee)

Monthly family child care home parent fees (2021, 2022, 2024)

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Full-time average monthly fee (2021)</i>	<i>Full-time average monthly fee (2022)</i>	<i>Full-time set or average monthly fee (2024)</i>
Infant	\$786	\$434	\$217
Toddler	\$734	\$405	\$217
Preschool-age	\$667	\$371	\$217
School-age (school year)	\$469	\$472	\$515 (average, not set fee)

Additional fees

Operators are not permitted to charge waitlist fees. They are permitted to charge optional fees for food, transportation, extended hours, field trips, and other services.

Parent fee subsidies

Saskatchewan does not have a stand-alone child care subsidy program. The Child Care Subsidy Program, which assisted eligible Saskatchewan families with the cost of child care, ended on March 31, 2025. Monthly subsidies were available for services provided by licensed child care facilities and were paid directly to service providers to reduce the fees charged for eligible families.

In January 2024, Saskatchewan included child care under the [Saskatchewan Employment Incentive](#) (SEI) program. Eligible families can use the SEI benefit toward child care costs. Administered by the Ministry of Social Services, these funds are paid directly to parents as part of a broader program

for low-income families. Working families with employment income of \$500 per month may be eligible for this financial benefit of up to \$600, depending on the number of eligible children. The SEI benefit can be used by the parent in any type of child care setting – licensed/unregulated, non-profit/for-profit, centre/home, or full-day/part-day. Parents with monthly family incomes between \$500 and \$2,200 are eligible for the maximum SEI benefit. For every dollar earned over \$2,200, the benefit amount is reduced by 30 cents.

Maximum monthly family income per number of eligible children for the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive (2025)

<i>Number of eligible children</i>	<i>Maximum monthly family income</i>
1	\$3,533.34
2	\$3,866.67
3+	\$4,200.00

Maximum monthly Saskatchewan Employment Incentive financial benefit (2025)

<i>Number of eligible children</i>	<i>Benefit</i>
1	\$400
2	\$500
3	\$600

■ WORKFORCE

Child care centre staff wages

Saskatchewan does not have a wage grid. Wages and benefits of early childhood educators and child care workers are set by each employer, with additional compensation through wage enhancement for all certified early childhood educators and for assistants working in group family child care homes.

PROVINCIAL DATA ON AVERAGE WAGES

Mean hourly wages for full-time positions in child care centres by position (June 30, 2024)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Mean hourly wage</i>
Director/acting director	\$33.25
Assistant director	\$29.37
Supervisor	\$25.76
Child care	\$23.72
Enhanced accessibility	\$22.85
All positions	\$25.25

Note: An additional wage enhancement took effect in September 2024; it is not reflected in these figures.

PROVINCIAL ECE WAGE ENHANCEMENT FOR CENTRES AND GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

In November 2021, Saskatchewan and the federal government introduced a [wage increase](#) of up to \$3/hour for qualified ECEs as part of the one-time federal workforce funding through the extension of the [Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#) (2017).

The wage increase, retroactive to July 1, 2021, varied by staff certification level, with up to \$1/hour for ECE certification Level I, \$2/hour for Level II, and \$3/hour for Level III.

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

Effective October 1, 2023, wages were further increased up to \$1.50/hour for ECE Level I, \$2/hour for Level II, and \$2.50/hour for Level III. The wage enhancement grant was expanded to include assistants working in group family child care homes who have an ECE certification.

Effective September 1, 2024, the ECE Wage Enhancement Grant increased for certified staff in child care centres and certified assistants in group family child care homes whose wages were below the specified provincial thresholds. The increased grant provided these staff at ECE Level I, II, and III up to \$1/hour.

Average wages (March 31, 2021) and cumulative wage enhancements (September 1, 2024)

<i>Position</i>	<i>ECE Level I average wage (2021)</i>	<i>Total ECE Level I Wage Enhancement Grant</i>	<i>ECE Level I threshold (2024)</i>
Director	\$19.93	\$5.50	\$25.43
Assistant director	\$19.94	\$5.50	\$25.44
Supervisor	\$16.90	\$5.50	\$22.40
Early childhood educator	\$15.56	\$5.50	\$21.06

<i>Position</i>	<i>ECE Level II average wage (2021)</i>	<i>Total ECE Level II Wage Enhancement Grant</i>	<i>ECE Level II threshold (2024)</i>
Director	\$24.75	\$7.00	\$31.75
Assistant director	\$21.25	\$7.00	\$28.25
Supervisor	\$20.19	\$7.00	\$27.19
Early childhood educator	\$18.06	\$7.00	\$25.06

<i>Position</i>	<i>ECE Level III average wage (2021)</i>	<i>Total ECE Level III Wage Enhancement Grant</i>	<i>ECE Level III threshold (2024)</i>
Director	\$27.03	\$8.50	\$35.53
Assistant director	\$24.12	\$8.50	\$32.62
Supervisor	\$21.57	\$8.50	\$30.07
Early childhood educator	\$20.43	\$8.50	\$28.93

Note: The position type for group family child care home assistants is early childhood educator.

Staff benefits

Saskatchewan does not provide or fund province-wide staff benefits to child care programs.

Early childhood certification

Provincial certification is required for all staff who work with infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and school-age 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 the staff person is applying for a higher certification level.

ECE CERTIFICATION LEVELS

Saskatchewan has three levels of [Early Childhood Educator Certification](#).

ECE Level III is required for directors of child care centres.

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

Education requirements for certification levels

Certification level	Requirements
ECE Level I	A post-secondary ECE orientation course or three courses/nine credit units 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.

Centre staff, family child care providers, and assistants in group family child care are required to participate in a minimum of six hours per year of continuing education related to working with children.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Child care centres and family child care homes must adhere to standards and regulations regarding staffing requirements, grouping of children, and licensing. Some additional key elements of child care standards and regulations, such as physical environments and food provision, are covered in the comparative tables in this publication, while others may be found in the [Child Care Act, 2014](#) and [Child Care Regulations, 2015](#).

Regulated child care centres

Child care centres are licensed under the [Child Care Act, 2014](#) and [Child Care Regulations, 2015](#). New regulations came into effect in July 2025.

STAFF:CHILD RATIO AND GROUP SIZE

The maximum centre size is 90 spaces, with no more than 18 infant spaces.

Staff:child ratio and maximum group size

Age group	Staff:child ratio	Maximum group size
Infant (0 – <18 months)	1:3	6
Toddler (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 am, 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:

- 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.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRES

Qualification requirements for staffing a centre

In Saskatchewan, staff qualification requirements are specified at the centre level.

In a centre, 20% of staff who work 65 hours or more per month must meet or exceed the qualifications of an ECE Level III, and an additional 30% of staff must meet or exceed the qualifications of an ECE Level II. The remainder of staff employed 65 hours or more per month must meet or exceed the qualifications of an ECE Level I. These percentages include the centre director and supervisor.

Qualification requirements for on-site centre directors/supervisors

A centre director must have ECE Level III certification. A centre supervisor must have at least

an ECE Level I certification. Centres must have both a director and supervisor.

Other requirements

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

Centre directors, supervisors, or child care workers working 65 hours or more per month must have completed a first aid course and a 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.

As of June 30, 2025, all centre staff are now required to participate in a minimum of six hours per year of continuing education related to working with children.

See the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#) for more information.

LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED CHILD CARE CENTRES

A licence to operate a centre is usually issued for a period of one year and is not transferable. Child care facilities receive two unscheduled visits per year. Licences are renewed annually as part of an annual assessment of licensing standards for facilities.

Regulated family child care

Regulated family child care is regulated under the [Child Care Act, 2014](#) and [Child Care Regulations, 2015](#).

Family child care must be provided in a residential premises, but it does not have to be the provider's personal residence.

MODEL OF ORGANIZATION

Family child care homes and group family child care homes are individually licensed.

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

In any family child care setting, the provider's own children under 10 years old are included in the capacity limits.

Family child care providers are permitted to care for up to eight children between six weeks and 12 years old. 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 providers are permitted to care for up to 12 children. When the new legislation takes effect in 2026, they will be permitted to care for up to 16 children. 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.

FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

Within the first year of becoming regulated, family child care and group 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 Level I requirements.

Family child care providers and assistants must be at least 18 years of age and must have completed a criminal records search, including a vulnerable sector check.

A family child care provider must have completed a first aid course including CPR training, and an

assistant must do so within six months of being employed.

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

Family child care providers and assistants in group family child care are required to participate in a minimum of six hours per year of continuing education related to working with children.

LICENSING AND MONITORING OF REGULATED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

A licence to operate a family child care home is usually issued for a period of one year and is not transferable.

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.

See the [Child Care Licensee's Manual](#) for more information.

■ OF INTEREST

Municipal role

While there is no mandated role in child care for municipalities in Saskatchewan, a number of small and rural municipalities have voluntarily taken on the responsibility of supporting and/or operating child care centres. In 2022, three municipalities operated child care centres. The number of municipal licence holders increased to four by 2023, and six by 2024 (Bredenbury, Carlyle, Carnduff, Vibank, Rural Municipality of Pittville, and Regina Beach). In May 2025, two others were in development (Lashburn and Ebenezer).

Family resource centres

The Ministry of Education provides funding through the Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for [Early Years Family Resource Centres](#). Twenty-one programs operate across the province, offering families a single location where they can access information, programs, and services to support their children's development and family wellness. Services include play-based activities, family groups, and other early learning programming, as well as parent education through formal and informal learning opportunities, drop-in programs, seminars, and more.

CHILD CARE DATA

■ REGULATED CHILD CARE SPACE STATISTICS

Number of spaces (2024, 2025)

	2024	2025
Full-day centre spaces		
Infant (6 weeks – <18 months)	1,629	1,703
Toddler (18 – <30 months)	4,499	4,778
Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years, not yet in Grade 1)	10,053	10,994
Total full-day centre spaces (children 0 – 5 years)	16,181	17,475
Before- and after-school care centre spaces (licensed or regulated)	2024	2025
Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	1,645	1,635
Total centre spaces (children 0 – 12 years)	17,826	19,110
Family child care licensed capacity	2024	2025
Family child care	912	1,056
Group family child care (more than one provider)	3,996	6,378
Total family child care spaces	4,908	7,434
TOTAL REGULATED SPACES (centre spaces and family child care licensed capacity)	22,734	26,544

Number of child care centres and family child care homes (2024)

Centre-based child care

<i>Total number of centres</i>	400
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Centre-based programs

Centres providing a full-day program	400
Centres providing a part-day licensed program for children attending school (Grades 1 – 6)	248
Centres providing infant care (6 weeks – <18 months)	242
Centres providing toddler care (18 – <30 months)	368
Centres providing preschool-age care (30 months – 5 years)	382
Centres providing a Francophone child care program	12
Centres providing non-standard hours care (as defined by the province)	2
Centres in publicly delivered and funded schools (K – Grade 12)	148

Regulated family child care

Individual family child care homes (active)	127
Group family child care homes (active)	355
<i>Total number of family child care homes</i>	482

Participation in CWELCC

<i>Total number of child care centres receiving CWELCC funding</i>	399
<i>Total number of family child care homes receiving CWELCC funding</i>	482

Auspice (2024)

Centres by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Number of centres</i>
For-profit	17
Non-profit	377
Public	6

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>BASC¹</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	711	26	737
Non-profit and public	15,470	1,619	17,089

¹ Before- and after-school care (Grades 1 – 6).

Auspice (2025)

Centre spaces by auspice

<i>Auspice</i>	<i>Full-day</i>	<i>BASC¹</i>	<i>Total</i>
For-profit	851	25	876
Non-profit and public	16,624	1,610	18,234

¹ Before- and after-school care (Grades 1 – 6).

Publicly operated child care (2024)

Publicly operated child care

<i>Entity type</i>	<i>Licence holders</i>	<i>Centres</i>
Municipality	6	6

Note: The municipalities of Bredenbury, Carlyle, Carnduff, Vibank, Rural Municipality of Pittville, and Regina Beach each operate one centre.

Note: Several First Nations in Saskatchewan operate regulated child care centres, but the province reports that this data is not tracked.

Fee subsidies (2024)

Number of children receiving fee subsidies

Full subsidy	255
Partial subsidy	100
Total children receiving fee subsidies	355

Note: The Child Care Subsidy Program ended on March 31, 2025.

Disability support (2024)

Number of children receiving disability support funding

Children in licensed child care receiving disability support funding	355
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■ REGULATED CHILD CARE ENROLMENT STATISTICS

Number of children enrolled (2024)

Full-day centre enrolment

Infant (6 weeks – <18 months)	243
Toddler (18 – <30 months)	524
Preschool-age (30 months – 5 years, including kindergarten-age children)	11,751
Total full-day centre enrolment (children 0 – 5 years)	12,518

Before- and after-school care (licensed)

Kindergarten-age and Grades 1 – 6	<i>Not available</i>
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Full-day family child care enrolment

Not attending full-day school (6 weeks – 6 years, including kindergarten-age children)	3,826
TOTAL REGULATED ENROLMENT (centre and family child care enrolment)	16,344

CHILD CARE FUNDING

The types of funding available for child care services in Saskatchewan include operational funding, one-time funding, fee subsidies, and other ELCC funding programs. See [Grants for Child Care Centres](#) and [Grants for Regulated Family Child Care Homes](#) for more information.

■ ELIGIBILITY FOR CWELCC FUNDING

The CWELCC plan provides federal funds to provinces and territories for early learning and child care operational and one-time funding and fee subsidies for licensed child care for children aged 0 – 5. Funded new child care expansion is to be public and non-profit unless otherwise specified in the jurisdiction's agreement. Provinces and territories also contribute their own funds and design their own policies and provision within this framework.

In Saskatchewan, the following are eligible for operational funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres; and
- Licensed/approved family child care.

New or expanded for-profit centres are not eligible for operational funding.

In Saskatchewan, the following are eligible for capital funding under CWELCC:

- Licensed full-day centres; and
- Licensed/approved family child care.

New or expanded for-profit centres are not eligible for capital funding.

■ CHILD CARE SERVICES' ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Almost all public funding – including operating (base) funding, capital and start-up funding, and fee subsidies – is available only to non-profit and public programs. See Saskatchewan's "[Parent fees](#)" section for more information.

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

■ TYPES OF FUNDING

Operational funding

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES GRANT

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. This grant assists with the monthly costs of child care centre operations, primarily staff wages and benefits. It represents the major grant to child care centres and supports approximately 30 – 35% of the operational costs of the centre at the following amounts per month:

- \$690 per infant space;
- \$414 per toddler space;
- \$207 per preschool-age space; and
- \$138 per school-age space.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES GRANT – NORTHERN CENTRES

Early Childhood Services Grant – Northern Centres assists with the monthly costs of child care centre operations, primarily staff wages

and benefits. This includes funding to support equipment and training in the North. The grant is paid once the centre is operational. This grant translates to the following amounts per month:

- \$720 per infant space;
- \$432 per toddler space;
- \$216 per preschool-age space; and
- \$144 per school-age space.

PARENT FEE REDUCTION GRANT

On November 19, 2021, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan [announced new funding](#) for parent fee reduction. The Parent Fee Reduction Grant provides operating funding directly to regulated facilities to reduce fees for all families with children under six years. The initial commitment was to reduce parent fees by an average of 50%. The grant was retroactive to July 1, 2021, with families receiving retroactive reimbursement of eligible fees paid. Parents began paying reduced fees to child care facilities starting February 1, 2022. Grant amounts were increased to further reduce parent fees on September 1, 2022, representing a 70% average fee reduction.

On April 1, 2023, parent fees were reduced to a maximum of \$10/day (\$217.50/month), and grant amounts increased again. Since April 1, 2023, and the introduction of \$10/day fees, there is no maximum monthly Parent Fee Reduction Grant amount; amounts provided to regulated facilities are tailored to ensure that parent contributions are only \$10/day.

WAGE ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Since 2021, Saskatchewan has enhanced the early childhood educator Wage Enhancement Grant several times to improve compensation for certified ECEs and address workforce challenges in the early learning and child care sector. Effective September 1, 2024, the ECE [Wage Enhancement Grant](#) has been increased for certified staff working in child care centres and certified assistants working in group family child care homes. The increased grant provides up to \$1 more per hour for staff with ECE Level I, II, or III. This increase builds upon previous ECE Wage Enhancement Grants announced in November 2021, October 2022, and October 2023.

Adjustments to the Wage Enhancement Grant (2021 – 2025)

ECE Level	2021 – 2022	2022 – 2023		2023 – 2024		2024 – 2025	
	Implemented September 2021	Increase September 2022	Maximum top-up	Increase October 2023	Maximum top-up	Increase September 2024	Maximum top-up
ECE Level I	\$1.00	+\$2.00	\$3.00	+\$1.50	\$4.50	+\$1.00	\$5.50
ECE Level II	\$2.00	+\$2.00	\$4.00	+\$2.00	\$6.00	+\$1.00	\$6.00
ECE Level III	\$3.00	+\$2.00	\$5.00	+\$2.50	\$7.50	+\$1.00	\$8.50

INDIVIDUAL INCLUSION GRANT

Individual Inclusion Grants are provided to an operator (centre, home, or group family home) to support an individual child with “additional needs.” See Saskatchewan’s “[Children with disabilities](#)” section for more information.

ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

The Enhanced Accessibility Grant is available to assist with the additional cost of supervising a child with “exceptionally high diverse needs.” See Saskatchewan’s “[Children with disabilities](#)” section for more information.

NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION GRANT

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 GRANT

The Equipment and Program Grant is available to family child care homes and group family child care homes to purchase toys, equipment, furnishings, craft supplies, and activities. The maximum grant per space is \$300/year. A maximum of 15% of the funding can be spent on children’s activities (bus fare and admission fees for museums, parks, leisure centres, festivals, and science facilities).

GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE GRANT

This funding is for ongoing costs associated with centres and group family child care for teen parents. The maximum grant for centres is \$810/month for an infant space and \$680/month for a toddler space. The maximum grant for a group family child care home is \$350/month.

SUPPORT SERVICES GRANTS – TEEN STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRES

Support Services Grants for non-profit teen student support centres assist with the ongoing costs associated with the provision of services and programs. The maximum grant is \$810 per month per infant space and \$680 per month per toddler space.

NUTRITION GRANT

The Nutrition Grant for family child care homes assists with provision of well-balanced, nutritious meals and snacks. As of June 2021, the maximum grant per month for regulated homes located outside the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District was increased from \$60 to \$80 per space, and within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District it increased from \$80 to \$100 per space. The maximum relates to the transitional grant for centres established prior to June 30, 1991.

One-time funding

START-UP GRANT – CENTRES

Start-up funds are available to assist with the cost of opening a new centre, increasing the number of spaces in an existing centre, and designing an enriched learning environment. The maximum amount is \$1,360/space, paid prior to the centre opening.

START-UP GRANT – FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES AND GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

The Start-up Grant assists with the cost of opening a family child care home or group family child care home and design of an enriched learning environment. The maximum amount of the grant is higher in the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District due to the higher start-up costs.

Start-up Grant funding amount based on type of family child care home and location (2021 – 2024)

Type of home	Location	Before June 2021	After June 2021	As of June 2024
Family child care homes	Saskatchewan	\$2,825	\$3,325	\$3,525
	Northern Saskatchewan Administration District	\$3,275	\$3,775	\$3,975
Group family child care homes	Saskatchewan	\$3,025	\$3,525	\$3,725
	Northern Saskatchewan Administration District	\$3,525	\$4,025	\$4,225

In addition, providers who change their licence from a family child care home to a group family child care home are eligible to receive a total of \$400.

SPACE DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUNDING

Space Development Capital Funding is a one-time capital grant available to assist centre operators with the costs of developing, renovating, or constructing new child care spaces in a centre. The funding increased from a maximum of \$10,000 per space to \$13,360 per space in 2024 – 2025. Funding is distributed through an agreement prior to centre opening and upon receipt of a budget and timeline for completion.

FIRE, HEALTH, AND SAFETY GRANT

The Fire, Health, and Safety Grant assists new operators of family child care homes and group family child care homes with the costs of meeting fire, health, and safety requirements as part of the initial licensing process. The maximum amount of this one-time grant is \$2,400 per new licence. The grant is provided during the licensing and regulation process.

PLAY AND EXPLORATION GRANT

The Play and Exploration Grant 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*. Family child care homes receive \$600, group family child care homes receive \$900, and centres receive \$2,500 for the first 30 spaces plus \$75 per additional space.

ACTIVE PLAY GRANT

The one-time Active Play Grant is for new child care centres and regulated family child care homes to purchase equipment and resources that support indoor and outdoor active play. The grants are disbursed prior to the facility's opening. Family child care homes receive \$500, group family child care homes receive \$750, and centres receive \$1,900 for the first 30 spaces plus \$60 per additional space.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT GRANT

The Change Management Grant was a one-time grant available in October 2022 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 was calculated at \$200 per regulated child care space.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Introduced in 2021 – 2022, the Early Childhood Care Workforce Enhancement Grant is a one-time grant for regulated and operational child care centres to support the recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood educators. The grant is calculated at \$145 per licensed child care space. It is intended to be flexible to enable boards to use funding to meet their centre’s needs.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR GRANT

The Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Grant is no longer in place. It allowed regulated ELCC centres to address infrastructure deficiencies. The one-time grant was intended to assist in the proactive maintenance of centres to inspect, detect, and correct the possibility of infrastructure deterioration before it occurs or develops into major defects.

Preventative Maintenance and Repair Grant funding (2022 – 2023)

<i>Type of eligible space</i>	<i>Amount allocated per eligible space</i>	
	<i>Outside Northern Saskatchewan Administration District</i>	<i>Northern Saskatchewan Administration District</i>
Infant (with adjustment)*	\$2,718	\$3,261
Toddler	\$1,676	\$2,011
Preschool-age	\$1,676	\$2,011
School-age	\$1,676	\$2,011

Note: Infant adjustment is calculated at 1.6216 the amount allocated to toddler, preschool-age, and school-age children due to the space requirement as stated in the Child Care Regulations, 2015.

WINTER SEASON GRANT

The Winter Season Grant (2022 – 2023) is no longer in place. The one-time grant supported regulated child care centres and homes to purchase equipment and materials to encourage active outdoor winter play. The grant was calculated at \$100 per regulated space.

Fee subsidies

Eligible families can use the Saskatchewan Employment Incentive program benefit toward child care costs. See Saskatchewan’s [“Parent fees”](#) section for more information.

Other ELCC funding

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT GRANT

On July 31, 2025, the Tuition and Book Reimbursement Grant and the Tuition Reimbursement Top-up Grant were merged into the Tuition Reimbursement Grant. The merged grant provides funding to licensees to reimburse tuition fees paid and required books purchased for early childhood education courses that are successfully completed by the licensee or a person employed in the facility, up to a maximum of \$1,500 per course completed.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Professional Development Grant is available to assist with costs associated with participating in professional development events delivered,

sponsored/funded, or supported by the Early Years Branch of the Ministry of Education. Professional development can be in person or online. All regulated facilities are eligible to receive a maximum grant based on the number of spaces and type of care. The maximum grant amounts are:

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

TRAINING SUPPORT GRANT

The Training Support Grant ended on June 30, 2025. Through the grant, child care facilities with educators participating in a formal education training program were eligible to receive up to \$500 per month for each course an educator was enrolled in, to a maximum of \$1,500 per month per educator. The grant was intended to support costs for a substitute or alternate child care provider while an educator pursued studies leading to an ECE certification at Level I, II, or III. The grant enabled educators to receive their regular wages while they were provided time off to pursue formal education, and the facility was supported with wage replacement costs (e.g., hourly wage and employer deductions) for substitutes or alternate child care providers.

PRESCHOOL SUPPORT GRANT

The Preschool Support Grant supports two long-standing Preschool Support Programs in Regina and La Loche and a third program in Swift Current that was added in September 2024. The programs are aimed at providing part-day integrated programming for at-risk preschool-age children.

These are preventive programs to improve health, social skills, and potential for success in school.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Through Early Childhood Initiatives, the Early Years Branch provides support to the Odyssey Community Childcare Society located on the Alberta side of Lloydminster in support of Saskatchewan children attending the facility.

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM GUIDE

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

FUNDING TO SASKATCHEWAN EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION

The [Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association](#) (SECA) is a non-profit, membership-based organization. The Ministry of Education has provided grant and service agreement funding to SECA since 1996. The Ministry regularly supports ECE professional development at SECA's annual conference and directors' retreats. Additionally, \$250,000 was provided to SECA under the Canada-wide agreement in 2022 – 2023 for ECE recruitment and retention. Funding of \$561,000 has also been provided under the Canada-wide agreement to host leadership-focused professional development opportunities for the regulated child sector from February 2024 to March 2026.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GRANT

The Operational Support Grant was a one-time grant for regulated child care centres and family child care homes to help offset inflation and lessen financial pressures associated with operations,

allowing facilities to maintain high-quality early learning environments. The grant was calculated at \$750 per child care space in 2022 – 2023, and \$850 per child care space in 2023 – 2024.

EARLY LEARNING INTENSIVE SUPPORT

Introduced March 1, 2018, the Early Learning Intensive Support program creates additional spaces targeted to children experiencing significant disability in existing prekindergarten programs. See Saskatchewan’s “[Kindergarten policy, programs, and data](#)” section for more information.

CHILDREN COMMUNICATING, CONNECTING, AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Children Communicating, Connecting, and in the Community program supports the attainment and development of language and communication skills for prekindergarten-age children who are deaf and hard of hearing. See Saskatchewan’s “[Kindergarten policy, programs, and data](#)” section for more information.

FUNDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024)

The funding figures in each category represent provincial spending, which may include both provincial funds and federal funds transferred under bilateral agreements, CWELCC agreements, or other federal programs used for early learning and child care.

Operational funding

Program	Amount
Northern Transportation Grant	\$15,000
Equipment and Program Grant	\$943,000

Early Childhood Services Grant	\$58,477,000
Support Services Grants – Teen student support centres and family child care homes	\$1,163,000
Nutrition Grant	\$3,788,000
Individual Inclusion Grant	\$118,000
Minority Inclusion Grant	\$308,000
Enhanced Accessibility Grant	\$7,410,000
Parent Fee Reduction Grant	\$115,176,000
Wage Enhancement Grant	\$24,761,000
Total operational funding	\$212,149,000

Note: Operational funding includes regularly paid public funding that contributes to the ongoing operation of the child care service. It may include operating grants or formula-based funding, family child care agency operating funds, wage grants/enhancement, disability funding, and other grants/funding paid on a recurring basis.

One-time funding – capital (major and minor)

Program	Amount
Start-up Grant	\$2,496,000
Space Development Capital Funding	\$22,655,000
Play and Exploration Grant	\$298,000

One-time funding – other

Program	Amount
Fire, Health, and Safety Grant	\$401,000
Adaptive Equipment	\$13,000
Active Play Grant	\$244,000
Preventative Maintenance and Repair Grant	(\$178,000) ¹
Winter Season Grant	(\$1,000) ¹
Change Management Grant	\$12,000
Total one-time funding	\$25,940,000

Note: One-time funding is paid occasionally or just once to a child care service and is not part of the regular operating budget. It may include major capital, minor capital, start-up, one-time equipment, or repair funding.

¹ Negative amounts reflect the repayment of one-time grants issued in the previous year. These were recovered from facilities as a result of closures or ineligible expenses.

Fee subsidies

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Child Care Subsidy Program	\$1,032,325

Note: The Child Care Subsidy Program ended on March 31, 2025. See Saskatchewan's "Parent fees" section for more information.

Note: These are fee subsidies in licensed, regulated, or approved child care. The subsidies are associated with an individual child and family. There are provincial eligibility criteria. Fee subsidies are sent directly to service providers.

TOTAL SPENDING FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE (operational funding, one-time funding, and fee subsidies)	\$239,121,325
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Other ELCC funding

<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Tuition and Book Reimbursement Grant	\$1,005,000
Tuition Reimbursement Top-up Grant	\$183,000
Professional Development Grant	\$1,517,000
Training Support Grant	\$1,206,000
Workforce Enhancement Grant	\$3,048,000
Early Childhood Education Training	\$10,288,000
Funding to Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association	\$138,000
Operational Support Grant	\$18,593,000
Preschool Support Grant	\$498,000
Children Communicating, Connecting, and in the Community	\$242,000
Early Learning Intensive Support and Specialized Prekindergarten Grant	\$5,325,000
Building capacity	\$248,000
Early Childhood Initiatives	\$84,000
Early Learning Program Guide	\$115,000
Total other ELCC funding	\$42,490,000

Federal transfers to Saskatchewan

<i>Federal transfer</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework – Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreements	\$18,278,555
Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care	\$208,322,327
Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund	\$3,847,521

Note: The federal transfers above represent the funds allocated to Saskatchewan for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. These funds may be slightly different from those included in the original agreements, as they are updated annually in line with population estimates. They do not represent funds carried over from the previous fiscal year or carried into the next fiscal year.

Source: Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, Employment and Social Development Canada (2025).