

New Brunswick



OVERVIEW

Kindergarten, regulated child care and other early childhood development programs are under the responsibility of the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

New Brunswick is an officially bilingual province with parallel English and French public education sectors. French and English kindergartens and regulated child care are delivered as part of those two sectors.

Kindergarten is a compulsory full school day program for five year olds, with full school day up to Grade 3 defined as 4 - 4.5 hours per day.

Regulated early learning and child care centres are predominantly for-profit. The remaining approximately one third of centres are non-profit; there is no publicly delivered child care.

Regulated early learning and child care homes are individually licensed.

The Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick signed the [Canada - New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#), effective for a three year term from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020. New Brunswick's total share of funding was \$30 million over three years and will also have contributed \$41 million in provincial funds on initiatives to improve early learning and child care. The Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan released January 9, 2018 provides further details.

As part of the agreement between New Brunswick and the federal government, a previous Liberal provincial government introduced the New Brunswick Early Learning Centre program in March 2018. The plan allows non-profit and for-profit centres to seek New Brunswick Early Learning Centre designation, making them eligible for increased operational funding. As of July 2018, the program was expanded to include Early Learning and Child Care Homes. Additional money from the federal-provincial agreement subsidizes families using the New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and Homes, based on income.

Following a change in government late in 2018, the new government committed to retaining and implementing [The Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan](#).

In 2010, the government set out its goal to create 30,000 new licensed child care spaces. New Brunswick surpassed this goal in February 2019. By April 2019, more than 330 child care facilities and more than 90 child care homes have become designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and New Brunswick Early Learning Homes.

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 (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	5,600
1	5,300
2	7,000
3	8,100
4	6,000
5	7,800
6	7,400
7	7,700
8	6,900
9	8,300
10	8,300
11	7,900
12	7,700
Total	94,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years (aggregated) (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	17,900
3-5	21,900
6-12	54,200
Total	94,000

Number of children 0 – 12 years with employed mothers (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0	3,800
1	3,600
2	5,300
3	6,000
4	4,200
5	5,200
6	5,100
7	4,600
8	4,500
9	5,700
10	5,400
11	5,200
12	5,200
Total	63,800

Number of children 0 – 12 with employed mothers (aggregated) (2019 rounded estimate)

Age	Number of children
0-2	12,700
3-5	15,400
6-12	35,700
Total	63,800

Number of children 0 – 14 identifying with an Indigenous group (2016)

Age	First Nations	Métis	Inuk (Inuit)	Multiple	Other
0-4	1665	550	35	20	50
5-9	1675	500	30	35	50
10-14	1510	575	30	20	40
Total	4,855	1,620	95	80	135

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (2019 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	12,700	77.0
3-5	11,100	81.6
0-5	23,800	79.3
6-15	31,400	86.3

Living arrangements of age of child by age by number of parents (2016)

Age	Living with two parents	Living with one parent	Lone mother	Lone father
0-4	26,735	7,230	6,330	900
5-9	28,020	9,660	8,045	1,610
10-14	27,360	9,880	8,020	1,865

Languages spoken most often at home (2016)

Age	English	French	Non-official	Multiple
0-4	24,190	8,500	885	770
5-9	26,760	9,825	890	765
10-14	26,680	9,535	885	720
Total	77,635	27,860	2,655	2,240

Median after tax income among families with children aged 0 – 5 years (2015) (\$)

Two parent families	Lone parent families	Male lone parent families	Female lone parent families
73,479	27,890	32,560	27,324

PARENTAL LEAVE AND BENEFITS

Maternity leave

16 weeks. There are no noted eligibility criteria for maternity leave beyond the employee being pregnant.

Parental leave (Child care leave)

62 weeks of child care leave can be taken by either parent or shared. Adoptive parents are entitled to child care leave.

The maximum combined duration of maternity and child care leave is 78 weeks, if the same parent is taking both leaves they must be taken consecutively.

There are no noted eligibility criteria for parental leave beyond being a parent of a new born or adopted child.

Benefits

Maternity and parental leave provisions in Canada outside Quebec, are divided between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Benefits are paid by the federal government under the Employment Insurance program (EI), while provincial /territorial provisions for job-protected leave are established in each jurisdiction's employment standards legislation. The federal benefit covers 15 weeks of maternity leave for eligible employees who are birth mothers, up to 12 weeks prior to the expected date of birth, and up to 17 weeks following the date of birth.

There are two federal benefit options for parental leave: the Standard Parental Benefit and the Extended Parental Benefit. The Standard Parental Benefit covers 35 weeks of paid leave taken over a 12 month period, paid at 55% of average weekly insurable earnings, up to \$573/week (2020) for either eligible parent, including adoptive parents. The Extended Parental Benefit allows 61 weeks of parental leave benefits taken over an 18 month period paid at 33% of average weekly earnings up to \$344/week (2020) for either eligible parent including adoptive parents.

The Parental Sharing Benefit is available to non-birth (second) parents. It covers an additional five weeks of benefits if both parents have shared the Standard Benefit option (40 weeks total) or an additional eight weeks of benefits under the Extended option if both parents have shared the Extended Benefit option (69 weeks total). It is paid at either the Standard or the Extended rate.

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

KINDERGARTEN

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Educational Services Division

Place 2000

250 King Street

Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

Telephone: (506) 453-3678

Website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education.html>

Ministère de l'Éducation et Développement de la petite enfance

Division des Services Éducatifs francophones

Place 2000

250 rue King

Fredericton, NB, E3B 5H1

Website: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/fr/ministres/education.html>

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Education Act*, 1997. c.E-1.12

Sections of the *Education Act* specific to kindergarten are: Section 8 (school privileges), Section 15 (compulsory attendance), and Section 16 (exceptions).

AGE ELIGIBILITY

Five years of age by December 31.

COMPULSORY

Kindergarten is delivered in public schools and is compulsory.

HOURS

The number of instructional hours must be a minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 4.5 hours per day. This is considered a full school day. School districts report that kindergarten programs operate at the maximum hours of instruction. There are approximately 832 instructional hours per year (based on 185 days of instruction).

CLASS SIZE

Provincial class size limits are specified in the agreement between Treasury Board and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. The 2016–2021 agreement stipulates a maximum kindergarten class size of 21 pupils. A kindergarten class combined with any other grade shall not exceed 16 pupils.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A bachelor's undergraduate degree, a one year bachelor of education and a New Brunswick Teacher's Certificate are required for elementary teachers.

There are no specific requirements for kindergarten teachers beyond those for elementary teachers. According to provincial officials, school districts are likely to give preference when hiring to a teacher who has taken some early childhood courses.

CURRICULUM

[K-12 Anglophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum, 2008](#)

[K-12 Francophone Sector Kindergarten Curriculum, 2009](#)

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT 2018-2019

Anglophone	4,795
Francophone	2,221
Total	7,016

SPENDING ON KINDERGARTEN

Not available.

REGULATED CHILD CARE

PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Early Childhood Development Division

Place 2000, P.O. Box 6000

Fredericton, NB, E3B 1H1

250 King Street

Fredericton, NB, E3B 9M9

Telephone: (506) 453-3678

Websites: EN <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/elcc.html>

FR <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/fr/ministeres/education/elcc.html>

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. [Early Childhood Services Act](#), 2010 (Current as of June 14, 2019).

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. Regulation 2018-11. Licensing Regulation – [Early Childhood Services Act](#).

CHILD CARE SERVICES

UNREGULATED CHILD CARE

Unregulated family child care

Care provided in a home for a maximum of five children (including the caregiver's own children less than 12 years) of mixed ages, 0 – 12 years. Of those five children, no more than one can be an infant and one must be a school-aged child. Maximum number if all are 0 – 24 months: two; 2 – 5 years: four. Maximum if all are school-aged: eight.

Alternative Child Care Program (funding)

Alternative Child Care Program provides funding for eligible parents who are working or training and do not have access to regulated child care due to where they live or their hours of work. Parents must demonstrate that they do not have reasonable access to a regulated early learning and child care facility within a five km radius of the home, workplace or training institution.

The maximum daily subsidy for this program is \$18.50 for infants, \$16.50 for children two years and older, and \$9.25 for school-age care.

Alternative Child Care rates are based on the number of children requiring service, the age of the child and the number of people in the family unit.

Income eligibility thresholds are \$15,012/year to \$50,268/year.

Funding is provided directly to the caregiver as a co-payment with the parent/guardian.

Note: “Reasonable access” means that a regulated early learning and child care facility has available spaces during the hours they are required and for the appropriate age of the child. (See also in FUNDING – Fee subsidies).

REGULATED CHILD CARE

Early learning and child care facilities

This category includes: full time early learning and child care centres (ELCC), part time early learning and child care centres and early learning and child care homes.

Full time early learning and child care centre

A licensed facility at which services are provided for more than four consecutive hours per day and three or more days per week to a group of children, including the children of the operator, as follows:

- more than three infants;
- more than five preschool-age children; more than one age group; or
- more than six children total, if the children are from more than one age group.
- school-age children.

Part time early learning and child care centre

A licensed facility at which services are provided to one of the following groups of children, including the children of the operator:

- more than five preschool-age children for up to four consecutive hours per or for fewer than three days per week; or
- more than nine school-age children.

Early learning and child care home

A licensed facility at which services are provided in a home setting for more than four consecutive hours per day and three or more days per week to a group of children, including those of the operator, as follows:

- three infants;
- five preschool-age children;
- nine school-age children; or
- six children, if the children are from more than one of the age groups.

New Brunswick Early Learning Facilities

This category includes: New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and New Brunswick Early Learning Homes.

New Brunswick Early Learning Centre (NBELC)

A licensed early learning and child care centre that meets specified eligibility criteria and program requirements set by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for children aged five years and under (0 – 5 years) who are not attending school.

There is a voluntary application process to be designated an NBELC, which are operationally funded with improved parent subsidies. Providing infant care is not required but preferred. As well, the centre must use either the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care or Curriculum éducatif des services de garde francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick and ensure the staff are trained in that curriculum framework. They must also implement the low fee policy as specified, operate within the Market Fee Threshold policy, work with the department to investigate ways to provide more infant and toddler spaces; improve capacity to improve inclusion; create annual quality improvement plans and assessments; actively participate in communities of practice and ongoing professional learning and work with government on data sharing to inform public policy. (See FUNDING section for further details).

New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Home

A licensed early learning and child care home that maintains specified eligibility criteria and program requirements set by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for children aged five years and under who are not attending school.

Note: The Market Fee Threshold is the range of fees provided by designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres. It is based on the average fee currently charged to parents for infants and preschool aged children under the age of five in three different sizes of communities: large urban, small urban and rural.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

[New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Curriculum Framework, 2008](#)

[Le Curriculum éducatif Services de gardes francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick, 2008](#)

The early learning and child care curricula are learning and development frameworks for parents and caregivers of all children aged 0 – 5 years. Promoting an experiential based approach to learning, they were developed by New Brunswick child care experts to assist parents and caregivers in helping children grow to their greatest potential. They recognize the individual learning abilities and unique cultural and linguistic identities of all children. Children are encouraged to be active participants in their own learning and follow their interests. The curricula aim to develop children’s dignity, a sense of self worth, and a zest for living and learning.

Note: These are two distinct curriculum frameworks, not translations.

CHILDREN WITH (SPECIAL) ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The Enhanced Support Worker Program (ESWP) is intended to support the labour force activities of families with children with disabilities/additional needs and increase the accessibility of early learning and child care for children with disabilities/additional needs.

Children with disabilities/additional needs may receive services in regulated child care under the ESWP. Eligibility is determined through an annual application process; parents must be working or studying, and the child’s initial application must demonstrate a high need for support services. To be identified as special needs, the child must fall into one of three categories: a confirmed diagnosis at birth, developmental issues after birth, or family risk factors.

Under the ESWP, early learning and child care facilities are funded to pay salary costs of support worker hours for preschool-aged and school-aged children with disabilities/additional needs with the intent to lower the staff:child ratio (maximum of 35 support worker hours per preschool-aged child per week). School-aged children can be funded for up to 20 hours/week while school is in session and 35 hours for one week in December, March Break and summer vacation.

INDIGENOUS CHILD CARE

New Brunswick licenses child care centres for Indigenous communities on reserve upon request from a First Nations community.

Ongoing monitoring and renewal functions are undertaken by the province.

On reserve centres are not eligible for provincial funding. First Nations families living on reserve and accessing off reserve childcare are eligible for provincial fee subsidy.

One off reserve Indigenous child care program is licensed by the Department and receives provincial government funding. Additionally, five centres on reserve are currently licensed by the Department.

There are 153 licensed spaces on reserve; three infant and 150 preschool-age.

New Brunswick has 15 Head Start programs funded through an agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick and Indigenous Services Canada. One of these currently operating Head Start programs under this agreement is licensed by the province.

There is also one Aboriginal Head Start off reserve program funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. (See the INDIGENOUS ELCC section in this report).

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (March 31 2019)

<i>Early learning and child care centre spaces</i>	
Infants (0 – 2 years)	2,339
Preschool-age (2 – 4 years)	12,225
School-age (5 – 12 years)	15,799
Total centre based spaces (0 – 12 years old)	29,236

<i>Early learning and child care home spaces</i>	1,127
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Total number of regulated child care spaces	30,363
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Children with special needs in regulated care (March 31 2019)

<i>Children funded through Enhanced Support Worker Program</i>	
Preschool-age children	129
School-age children	129

Children receiving fee subsidies (March 31 2019)

<i>Age group</i>	
0 – 4 years (Daycare Assistance Program and Parent Subsidy)	3,556
5 – 14 years	3,798
15 + years	7

Total number of children receiving fee subsidies 7,361

Note: This figure is the number of children receiving subsidies as of March 31st, 2019. Note that New Brunswick reports only annual cumulative totals. Thus, this figure may not be comparable to the numbers reported in earlier editions of Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada..

Number of child care programs (March 31 2019)

<i>Centre based programs</i>	
Full time ELC centres	386
Part time ELC centres providing service only to preschool-aged children	15
Part time ELC centres providing service only to school-aged children	233
Part time ELC centres providing service to preschool-aged and school-aged children	39
Total centre based programs	673

Number of school based child care centres	126
Preschool-age children	44
School-age children only	82

Number of francophone child care centres (included in centre based)	265
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Number of ELC homes	177
Number of francophone ELC homes (included in ELC homes)	80

Sponsorship of part time and full time regulated centre based spaces (March 31 2019)	
Non-profit	10,091
For-profit	19,145

Total number of regulated centre based spaces 29,236

Note: A breakdown to part and full day spaces is not available.

PARENT FEES

In New Brunswick Early Learning Centres, centre operators agree to not exceed the provincially set parent fees as below:

<i>Community Type</i>	<i>Full time daily maximum fee</i>		<i>Part time daily maximum fee</i>	
	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Preschool</i>	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Preschool</i>
Large urban	\$39.00	\$33.00	\$23.40	\$19.80
Small urban	\$35.00	\$29.50	\$21.00	\$17.70
Rural	\$34.00	\$29.00	\$20.40	\$17.40

The Early Learning and Child Care Services Annual Statistical Report 2018-2019 estimates the daily fee for full time care as follows:

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Estimated daily fee</i>
Infant	\$ 35.21
Preschool-age	\$ 30.60
School-age	\$18.43

In 2019, a national survey of child care fees in Canada's large cities included the following New Brunswick cities:

<i>Median monthly infant fee</i>			
<i>City</i>	<i>Infant</i>	<i>Toddler</i>	<i>Preschooler</i>
Saint John	\$868	\$738	\$664
Moncton	\$856	\$716	\$722
Fredericton	\$835	\$727	\$690

Note: These median monthly figures include fees from centre based child care and home child care.

Source: Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2020). In Progress: Child care fees in Canada 2019. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

REGULATED CENTRES

Maximum centre size: 60 spaces overall unless established prior to 1983 and grandparented under new regulations.

Staff:child ratios and group sizes

<i>Age</i>	<i>Staff:child ratios</i>	<i>Max. group sizes</i>
Under two years	1:3	6
Two – three years	1:5	10
Three – four years	1:8	16
Four – five years	1:10	20
School-age	1:15	30

CENTRE STAFF REQUIREMENTS

The operator or administrator of the facility or his/her designate or one in four staff is required to have a one year community college ECE certificate or equivalent. New applicants for early learning and childcare centres must meet this training requirement prior to licensing. Staff must be at least 16 years old; 16-19 year olds are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19. All staff must have first aid training, valid cardio-pulmonary resuscitation certificate and Prior Contact/Criminal Record Checks/Vulnerable Sector Checks (as is applicable).

Individuals with out of province early childhood credentials that are accepted by other provinces in Atlantic Canada, or with a certificate level or higher from a community college that is a member of Colleges and Institutes Canada, are recognized as having equivalent qualifications. Educators coming from other provinces must take the 30 hour curriculum training.

New Brunswick also accepts a Bachelor of Education as a training credential in child care from recognized New Brunswick universities. These educators must also take the 30 hour curriculum training.

An administrator or an educator who does not hold a one year Early Childhood Education Certificate, or training that is equivalent in the opinion of the Minister must have successfully completed the Introduction to Early Childhood Education course. This course consists of 30 hours of curriculum training and 60 hours of introduction to early childhood.

There are no qualification requirements for staff working in stand alone school-age programs.

STAFF WAGES

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

<i>Median annual employment income</i>	\$27,817
<i>Median hourly employment income</i>	\$13.37 - 15.28/hr
(calculated using 2080 hrs/year (40 hrs week) and 1280 hrs/year (35 hrs/week))	

Source: Canadian Census, 2016

Note: These data include Early Childhood Educators and

Assistants, as defined in NOC 4214, working in the day care services industry in centre based environments with children aged 0 – 12 years, as defined in NAICS 6244. Included as 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.

REGULATED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE HOME

Model of organization

Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Infants: Three

Two - five years of age: Five

Six years of age and over: Nine

Combination of ages: Six

The capacity maximums include the provider's own children who are under 12 years of age.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Fifteen Quality Assurance Monitors, 7.5 Inspectors and 2.5 Investigators located in the province's four regions are responsible for licensing, monitoring compliance with the legislation and for investigations.

The *Early Childhood Services Act* provides the Minister with the authority to investigate, recommend changes, suspend the operation or terminate the licence to operate an early learning and childcare facility.

Early learning and child care home provider qualification requirements

A provider who does not hold a one year Early Childhood Education Certificate, or training that is equivalent in the opinion of the Minister must have successfully completed the Introduction to Early Childhood Education course. This course consists of 30 hours of curriculum training and 60 hours of introduction to early childhood.

Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first aid and CPR training.

Providers are required to have a Prior Record Check and

Criminal Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Check as set out in the Licensing Regulation 2018-11.

FUNDING

All services are eligible for all funding streams, with the exception of the Operational Grant and Parent Subsidy Program which are only available to New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and New Brunswick Early Learning Homes with designation status.

TYPES OF FUNDING

Fee subsidies

There are two subsidy programs in NB: Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) and The Parent Subsidy Program.

The **Daycare Assistance Program (DAP)** provides financial support in the form of child care subsidies to parents to help them pay the day care cost of Early Learning and Child care facilities for children 0 to 12. DAP is available to, primarily, families with school-age children but also provides benefits to families with preschool-age children who are not attending a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre or Home facility.

The **Parent Subsidy Program**, which began April 2018, provides financial support to subsidize the costs of early learning and child care for children in designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres (NBELC) and New Brunswick Early Learning Homes, and began April 2018. It is accompanied by ongoing operational funding for preschool-age services.

Eligibility for families

Social criteria

Parent Subsidy Program Eligibility:

- At least one preschool-aged child who is not in school and who is registered in a designated facility; and
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident, as well as a resident of New Brunswick; and
- Must be either working, in a training or education program or have a special circumstance; and
- Expenses for child care services are more than 20% of the gross annual household income (before deductions).

Daycare Assistance Program Eligibility:

- Family has a preschool-aged child in a licensed Early Learning and Child Care facility (not designated NBELC);
- Has a school-aged child registered in a licensed Early Learning and Child Care facility or a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre or Home;
- Canadian citizens or permanent residents;
- Residents of New Brunswick;
- Working, registered in an education program or training, or have special circumstances;
- Net annual family income (after deduction) is \$55,000 or less.

Financial eligibility (2019)

Under the Parent Subsidy Program, families up to annual gross income of \$37,500 for children five years and under pay no fee (fully subsidized). The subsidy levels above this are based on a sliding scale (between \$37,501 and \$80,000 gross family income), which considers child care fees, number of children five years and younger not attending school and annual gross family income. Families will not pay more than 20% of gross annual family income for all child care costs.

Subsidies under the Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) are based on net income. A family qualifies for a full subsidy up to \$22,000 net annual income (that is, the province will pay the service provider the full subsidy rate). Families will be subsidized on a sliding income eligibility scale up to \$55,000.

[Full table with eligibility levels](#)

Which service providers are eligible to deliver subsidized child care?

Full time and part time designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres/ Homes are eligible for parents using the Parent Subsidy Program.

The Daycare Assistance Program is available primarily for before and after school care; it is also available for families with preschool-aged children not attending a designated Early Learning Centre or Early Learning Home.

Surcharges above the fee subsidy

Fee subsidies are paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents to cover part or all of their fee. Parents who pay above full subsidy in the Parent Subsidy Program (above \$37,000 gross income) and in the Daycare Assistance Program are responsible for paying any difference between the child care fee charged and the subsidy amount approved under both fee subsidy programs. Under the Parent Subsidy Program, fully subsidized parents (up to \$37,000 annual income) may not be surcharged; their child care is free.

Subsidy rates

The subsidy rate is the maximum amount paid by the provincial/territorial government to the service to cover all or part of the parent fee.

Maximum Subsidy Rates - Daycare Assistance Program (2019)

	Full time daily rate	Part time daily rate
Infant	\$28.50	\$14.50
Preschool-age/School-age	\$24.25	\$12.75

Maximum Subsidy Rates - Parent Subsidy Program (2019)

Community Type	Full time daily rate		Part time daily rate	
	Infant	Preschool	Infant	Preschool
Large urban	\$39.00	\$33.00	\$23.40	\$19.80
Small urban	\$35.00	\$29.50	\$21.00	\$17.70
Rural	\$34.00	\$29.00	\$20.40	\$17.40

Are all eligible families entitled to a fee subsidy?

All families who are deemed eligible are provided a child care subsidy.

Are there other programs that subsidize the individual family or child?

Under the Alternative Child Care Program, unregulated providers may be eligible to deliver subsidized child care. To use a subsidy for unregulated child care care through the Alternative Child Care Program, families must demonstrate they do not have reasonable access to a licensed facility within a five km radius of the home, workplace or training institution. Reasonable access means that a licensed early learning and childcare facility has available spaces during the hours they are required and for the appropriate age of the child.

Operational (previously Recurring) funding

Operational Grant

This funding is available to licensed early learning and child care facilities that are designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and New Brunswick Early Learning Homes. This operational funding available for designated facilities to offset the costs of maintaining program criteria and requirements as outlined in the Designation Policy. This funding is allocated through the Parent Subsidy Program. It is paid monthly.

The New Brunswick Early Learning Centre Operating Grant is broken out into two calculations:

1. *Infant Operating Grant:* \$10 per enrolled infant/day. The infant grant is designed to support operators to offset the cost of providing infant care that is typically higher because of the higher staff: child ratio, group size and other legislative requirements.
2. *Quality Grant:* \$2.50/per day per enrolled preschool-age child (2 - 5 years). The Quality Grant is designed to ensure improved quality of services.

The New Brunswick Early Learning Homes Operating Grant is calculated at \$2.50/per day per enrolled space for 0 – 5 year olds not attending school. This grant is intended to support the following:

- creating and maintaining infant spaces;
- meet the ongoing requirements of being a designated home including the delivery of high quality services;
- providing financial support to achieve annual Quality Improvement Plans.

Quality Improvement Funding Support Program (QIFS)

QIFS makes funding available to increase the wages of child care workers. All licensed early learning and child care facilities that apply for this funding before the annual deadline receive funding. All new facilities licensed prior to the annual deadline who make application, receive funding. This funding is disbursed quarterly following receipt of the quarterly hours report indicating number of hours worked each quarter by each eligible employee¹.

¹ The employer is expected to pay at least the minimum wage (\$11.70/hour); the additional provincial \$6.50 (April 2020) is to be paid as wage in addition. The base wage of a trained educator is now \$18.20/hr; the current commitment is to bring it to at least \$19/hour.

The funding rates for employees receiving QIFS wage enhancements are:

- \$6.50/hour
Educator, Administrator/educator, Administrators and Relief staff who have recognized Early Childhood Education training or a completed university degree in any discipline from a recognized Canadian institution.
- \$3.15/hour
Educator and Administrator/educator who do not have recognized Early Childhood Education training or a university degree.
- \$2.75/hour
Administrators and Relief staff who do not have recognized Early Childhood Education training or University degree.

One time funding

Provincial funding through the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund has been used to support training for ECEs, creation of new spaces for rural locations, infant spaces, extended hours facilities; and the creation of new spaces offered in the minority language of a given community.

The Early Learning and Child Care Project Review Board Inc. is the beneficiary of the fund and administers the current initiatives. The Board is comprised of four members and employs a part time Project Review Coordinator.

In 2007, initial funding for the ELCC Trust Fund, which came from the agreement between the federal government and New Brunswick associated with the first year of the cancelled Foundations program, was about \$8 million. This grew by \$5.7 million from the federal Child Care Spaces Initiatives in 2008. In March 2008, the New Brunswick Government provided \$5.7 million from the fund to support the creation of more child care spaces and training opportunities for staff. The remaining funds stayed in the Trust Fund and were used for child care expenditures on a continuing basis (See [ECEC in Canada](#) 2008, 2014 and 2016).

The following is a list of additional investments made to the Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund:

2012-2013	\$350,000
2013-2014	\$850,000
2014-2015	\$1,350,000
2015-2016	\$800,000
2016-2017	\$1,000,000
2017-2018	\$1,125,000

Annual reports for the [Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund](#) are available online.

New expansion spaces

For new infant child care spaces in early learning and child care centres and early learning and child care homes: A minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new spaces in rural New Brunswick local service districts and villages: In early learning and child care centres, a minimum of five spaces must be created (\$5,000/space). In early learning and child care homes, a minimum of three spaces must be created.

For new extended hours spaces for shift workers in early learning and child care centres, a minimum of eight spaces must be created. In early learning and child care homes, a minimum of five spaces must be created.

Training assistance

For individuals currently employed in early learning and child care facilities who have completed courses as part of the one year ECE Certificate from a recognized training institute on or after January 2007, or who completed the one year ECE Certificate on or after January 2007 and are currently employed in early learning and child care facilities in New Brunswick.

Minority language communities

Funding is available for new early learning and child care facilities that will operate in one of the official languages (English or French) in a community where that language is the minority. The facility must offer full day services for 0 – 5 year olds and remain open for a minimum of two years after receiving the funding.

Special needs funding

Funding is provided under the Enhanced Support Worker Program (ESWP) for families in the labour force whose children have relatively high support needs.

PROVINCIAL ALLOCATIONS FOR REGULATED
CHILD CARE (2018-2019)

Fee subsidies

Daycare Assistance Program (DAP) and Parent Subsidy program	\$37,630,116
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Operational (previously Recurring) funding

Operational Grant	\$3,182,883
Quality Improvement Funding	\$27,611,300
Enhanced Support Worker Program	\$3,307,300

Total Operational funding **\$34,101,483**

Note: Federal funding of \$9,934,985 through the Canada – New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for 2018-2019 is included in the provincial allocations.

TOTAL ALLOCATION **\$ 71,731,599**

Total provincial allocation for regulated child care + \$9,934,985 federal funding through the Canada-New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (2018-2019)

Other funding

Early Learning and Child Care Trust Fund Training assistance for child care staff	\$370,634
New child care spaces	\$462,750
Minority language funding	\$7,600

Total Other funding (Trust Fund) **\$840,984**
