

SASKATCHEWAN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Saskatchewan: Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead ministry/ Department	Ministry of Education
Common supervisory unit	No
Related departments	Ministry of Social Services
Policy framework	No policy framework for integrated early childhood education
Legislation	<p><i>The Child Care Act (1989, amended 2000, 2002)</i> http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/C7-3.pdf</p> <p><i>The Child Care Regulations (2001)</i> http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/C7-3R2.pdf</p> <p><i>Education Act (1995, amended 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002)</i> The Independent Schools Regulations.</p>
Provincial/territorial oversight/advisory	No province-wide body
Local service delivery	Prekindergarten and Kindergarten: school divisions. Child care: regional offices http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ELCC

Department organization

The Ministry of Education includes early learning and child care, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy, and library sectors. The Early Years Branch is comprised of the Early Learning and Child Care Unit, the Regional Child Care Services Unit, Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Development and Integrated Services. The branch administers the legislation and provides policy and program direction and advice, financial supports, professional and evaluation supports related to licensed child care, Prekindergarten programs and services, *KidsFirst* Strategy, and early childhood development/intervention initiatives.

The Student Achievement and Supports Branch is responsible for provincial curriculum development and implementation and for evaluating resources for Saskatchewan's K-12 schools. The branch also provides professional development related to curriculum and consultative support for the development of resources.

The Ministry of Social Services administers the Child Care Subsidy Program.

Service design

Kindergarten: All school divisions offer Kindergarten programs either every day for half-days or every other day for a full day. Recently some school divisions have offered full-time Kindergarten. Age eligibility age varies by school division.

Prekindergarten for 4-year-olds: Prekindergarten programs are operated by school divisions and employ a teacher with a minimum of a Bachelor of Education and an educational associate. Prekindergarten programs follow provincial guidelines and emphasize family engagement and home

visits, provision of nutritious snack and interagency collaboration. School divisions may partner with a community agency to offer Prekindergarten programming (e.g., Aboriginal Head Start).

Preschools: (also called playschools or nursery schools) are part-time programs for 2- to 4-year-old children that are not regulated. Preschools are usually operated by private individuals or community groups such as parent boards, child care centre boards or community associations. They may or may not employ early childhood educators

Regulated child care: Regulated child care operators of child care centres are predominantly non-profit in Saskatchewan and most are operated by incorporated non-profit parent boards. Care is provided for infants to children up to school age in child care centres and by licensed family child care providers in family child care homes, group family child care homes and teen student support family child care homes. The province will license but does not fund for-profit child care centres.

Local service delivery

Twenty-eight school divisions offer kindergarten and prekindergarten.

Three regional offices provide monitoring, licensing, and consultation for regulated child care programs. Regulated child care programs are required to have parental involvement by either a parent board of directors or a parent advisory committee.

FUNDING

Saskatchewan: Funding early childhood education/child care services 2011-2012	
Kindergarten	55,000,000 ¹
Other publicly funded ECE program (prekindergarten)	17,600,000 ²
Licensed child care	72,500,000 ³
Total ECE/child care spending	145,100,000
Total Budget 2011-2012 est.	10,679,000,000 ⁴
ECE/child care spending as % of provincial budget	1.36%
1. Provincial average \$5000/child x 11,000 children	
2. Estimate: \$65,000/program x 271 programs; Ministry of Education, November 2011	
3. Saskatchewan Budget 2011-2012 Estimates http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12/2011-12Estimates.pdf	
4. Saskatchewan Budget 2011-2012 Estimates http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12/2011-12Estimates.pdf	

The government of Saskatchewan provides grants to support wage enhancements, recruitment and training.

Saskatchewan: Regulated child care funding breakdown¹		%
Parent fee subsidies – Ministry of Social Services		26
Program Funding		68
Special Needs		6
1. Estimated allocation based on: Saskatchewan Budget 2011-2012 Estimates http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2011-12/2011-12Estimates.pdf and Beach et al (2009) <i>ECEC in Canada 2009</i> . http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-canada/09/11/early-childhood-education-and-care-canada-2008		

In its plan for 2011-2012, the Ministry of Education listed key actions in early childhood including the increase in the number of child care spaces, and in particular spaces in schools and is committed to an increase in Prekindergarten programs for vulnerable children. The spring 2011 – 2012 budget announced \$2.1 million to support development of 500 new child care spaces in 13 communities, including 156 designated to post-secondary institutions and \$4M for school-based child care capital. Another \$2.6 million will develop 40 additional Prekindergarten programs for up to 640 three and four-year-old children targeted in high needs areas, with an additional \$2M to support capital renovations.

ACCESS

Saskatchewan: Child population 0-5 years 2010¹	
Child population 0-5 years	80,898
Total population	1,045,622
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	7.7%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Saskatchewan: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 year old kindergarten ¹	11,200
Child population 5-years-old (2010) ²	12,535
% of 5-year-old population attending kindergarten	89%
1. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=229,134,107,81,1,Documents&MedialD=15722&File . Does not include First Nations on reserve schools.	
2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Saskatchewan: Early childhood education 2-to 4-year-olds enrollment 2008-2009¹	
Children whose parents work or study	5,000
Children whose parent not working	3,600
Children attending Prekindergarten offered in provincial schools	3,600
Total children attending ECE program	12,500
Child population 2 – 4 years	35,500
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	35%
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation. Data from NLSCY Cycle 8. NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	
2. Approximately 3600 children enrolled in Prekindergarten programs in 2008/2009. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/2010-Indicators	

Some school divisions offer additional preschool or Prekindergarten classes, such as French Immersion, not necessarily targeting vulnerable families. Conseil des écoles Fransaskois provides preschool programming for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

Children who have exceptional learning needs and may begin attending school at the age of three through Early Entrance. This is separate from Pre-kindergarten. In 2010, about 200 three- and four- year old children were enrolled as early entrance students in Saskatchewan provincial schools. <http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/2010-Indicators>

Saskatchewan: Licensed child care spaces 2011¹	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 – 18 months)	846
• Toddlers (18– 30 months)	1,965
• Preschool (30 months – 5 years)	4,640
• School age (5-12 years)	1,158
Private-home day care enrolment	2,239
Total licensed capacity	11,761
The total number of child care spaces operational or in development for 2011-12 is 12,700.	
1. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/Annual-Report	
Note: An estimated additional First Nations 80 child care centres are on reserve. The Saskatchewan government does not	

regulate child care programs on reserves. Aboriginal Head Start programs for preschool children exist on- and off-reserve. Funding for First Nations early childhood education programs is provided by the federal government.
<http://www.fsin.com/index.php/early-learning-a-child-care.html>
<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ABLK-Early-Learning>
<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/early-learning-literature-review>

Number of mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	20,800	66.9%
Children ages 3 to 5	14,700	78.6%
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	35,500	71.3%
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	14,300	28.7%
Total mothers with child less than age 6	49,800	100%
1. Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, Labour force estimates of women with children by age of youngest child for Canada and the provinces. 2010 annual averages		

Inclusion

School boards are required by *The Education Act* and *the Education Regulations* to provide educational programming and services for children with diverse needs. The Student Support Services Branch of the Ministry of Education supports programming for children with intensive needs including three- and four-year olds in early entrance programs.

The Child Care Inclusion Program supports the inclusion of children with diverse needs in regulated child care programs including:

- Individual Inclusion Grant financial support for additional supervision of a child with diverse needs;
- Enhanced Accessibility Grant, which provides financial support for additional supervision of a child with exceptionally high diverse needs;
- Adapted Equipment Grant for special equipment; and the Training and Resource Grant to support child care providers to be trained in working with children with diverse needs.

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ELCC/inclusion-program/>

Centre Inclusion block funding replaces Individual Inclusion grants in a number of centres with a high percentage of children identified as having diverse needs from very low income, transient, single parent families.

KidsFirst and 13 Early Childhood Intervention Programs connect vulnerable families and children with special needs to early childhood education programs including child care, preschools and prekindergarten.

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/KidsFirst>
<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ECIP>

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Saskatchewan: Curriculum	
<i>Kindergarten Saskatchewan Curriculum</i> (2010)	An inquiry through play-based approach. Inquiry learning provides children with opportunities to test theories and build knowledge, abilities, and inquiring habits of mind that lead to deeper understanding of the world and human experience. The distinguishing features of environment, conversation, and play provide the foundation for children's learning. In an effective Kindergarten classroom, a flexible, dynamic environment stimulates inquiry, facilitates play, and inspires curiosity. Through meaningful conversations, respect and relationships are affirmed. Play provides children with opportunities to construct knowledge as they create and test theories, practice their skills, and make sense of the world around them. https://www.edonline.sk.ca/webapps/moe-curriculum-BBLEARN/index.jsp?kindergarten=true&lang=en&view=kindergarten_home&XML=kindergarten.xml
<i>Better Beginnings, Better Futures: Effective Practices Policy and Guidelines for Prekindergarten in Saskatchewan</i> (2008)	A guide to implementing a holistic, developmentally appropriate and caring learning program. It focuses on the healthy development of the whole child, family engagement and community partnerships. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/EY/Pre-k/program-guidelines
<i>Play and Exploration: Early Learning Program Guide</i> (April 2008) / <i>Jouer et explorer, Guide du programme d'apprentissage, Pour la petite enfance, Septembre 2008</i>	Guide to promote high quality, age-appropriate, play-based learning experiences for three-, four- and five-year-old children in a variety of settings including child care centres and Prekindergarten classes. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ELCC/play-and-exploration-program-guide

Kindergarten is offered in English, Francophone, French Immersion, Core French Kindergarten is also offered as a Ukrainian-English bilingual program depending on the school division. In some school divisions, ESL support is offered to Kindergarteners.

Saskatchewan has an Aboriginal Languages curriculum guide for Kindergarten to Grade 12. Prekindergarten is offered in English as well as Dene and Cree Immersion in a small number of classes.

Transition to school

The Early Childhood Intervention Programs (ECIP) are a province-wide network of supports to families with children who experience developmental delays. ECIP staff provide a link to the early childhood education programs (including child care, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten). They work with other professionals and families to achieve smooth transitions to school.
<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/ECIP>

Work environment

- Child Care: Maximum centre size 90 spaces with a maximum 12 infant spaces in a centre.
- Prekindergarten: Class size is 16 students with an adult/child ratio of 1/8.
- Kindergarten: Class size is not specified for 5-year-olds.

Saskatchewan: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres¹		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
Infants (6 weeks up to 18 months)	1:3	6
Toddlers (18 – 30 months)	1:5	10
Preschool (30 months to 5 years)	1:10	20
School-age	1:15	30
1. http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/elcc/licenseemanual		

Educators

Saskatchewan: Educator qualifications	
Prekindergarten and Kindergarten teachers	To qualify for a certificate, teachers must meet the following basic requirements: a Saskatchewan grade 12 or its equivalent; an approved university degree or its equivalent; at least four years of post-secondary education; completion of an approved teacher education program; and English proficiency or French proficiency (for those who teach in French). In addition the Prekindergarten guidelines encourage early childhood education specialization.
Early childhood educators	<p>Early childhood educator I: a 120-hour introductory course in early childhood education from a university, technical institute, regional college or similar post-secondary educational facility or equivalent</p> <p>Early childhood educator II: one-year certificate in early childhood education from a university, technical institute, regional college or similar post-secondary educational facility; or (has successfully completed education or equivalent to the one-year certificate</p> <p>Early childhood educator III: two-year certificate in early childhood education from a university, technical institute, regional college or similar post-secondary educational facility; or equivalent</p> <p>http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/elcc/licensemanual</p>

Teacher and early childhood educator average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008/09 ¹	Early childhood educator 2009-2010 ²	ECE % of teacher
\$59,070	\$33,945 ¹	58%
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i>, Statistics Canada.</p> <p>2. Full time ECE at \$16.32/hour x 40 hours/week x 52 weeks. Adapted from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009/ 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.</p>		

Saskatchewan: Required professional requirements for educators		
	Recognition requirement	Professional learning requirement
Kindergarten teachers ¹	Certification, Department of Education A Professional "A" Teacher's Certificate confers eligibility to teach at any grade from kindergarten to Grade 12.	
Early childhood educators ²	Certification, Early Learning and Child Care Branch, Department of Education	
<p>1. http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/english/Regulations/Regulations/e0-2r11.pdf</p> <p>2. Child Care Regulation. 53/2010. http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2010/053.pdf</p>		

ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual progress reports: *Securing Our Future: Early Child Development Progress Report 2007/2008* profiles areas of action and expenditure by the Government of Saskatchewan as agreed to in the Communiqué on Early Childhood Development 2000, the Multilateral Framework Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care 2003 and the Federal Child Care Spaces Initiative 2007.

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx/asp/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=1178,182,136,107,81,1,Documents&MediaID=14200&Filename=Securing+Our+Future+SK+ECD+Progress+Report+2007-08.pdf>

Ministry of Education Annual Report documents the government's progress towards meeting education commitments.

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/financial-statement-sdtlcf-10-11>

Population monitoring: Saskatchewan completes and reports on the Early Development Instrument for children attending kindergarten in provincial schools and in some on-reserve schools. Completion of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) province-wide data collection for 2011 ensures a baseline of results for the province.

<http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/financial-statement-sdtlcf-10-11>