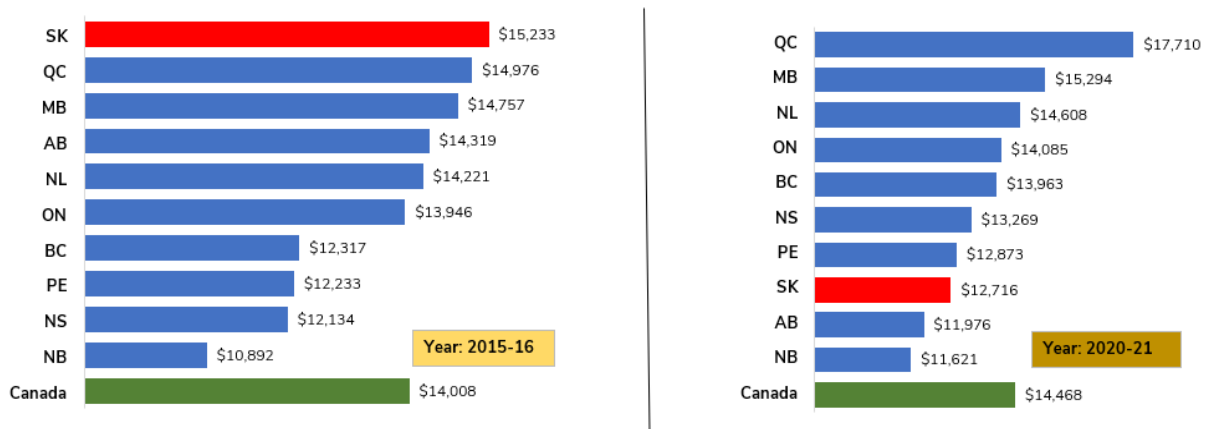


EDUCATION IN SASKATCHEWAN FACTS AND STATISTICS

Per-Student Funding

- In 2012-13, Saskatchewan had the highest per-student total public education spending in the country, as reported by the Fraser Institute. However, by 2020-21, it had dropped to the sixth highest, representing a 10.0 percent decrease in per-student funding.¹
- In 2015-16, Saskatchewan had the highest school board operational spending per-student in the country according to Statistics Canada. However, by 2020-21, it had fallen to the eighth place, representing a reduction of 16.5 percent, after adjustment for inflation.

School Board Operational Funding Per-Student, Adjusted for Inflation: 2015-16 versus 2020-21



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 37-10-0066-01 Public and private elementary and secondary education expenditures. Table 37-10-007-1 Number of students in regular programs for youth. Table 18-10-0005-01 Consumer price index.

- The most recent numbers from Statistics Canada² show children and youth make up a greater proportion of the population in Saskatchewan than in any other province.
 - 23 percent of Saskatchewan's population is under the age of 17. This is more than any other province.
 - 19 percent of Saskatchewan's population is school age (age bands 5-19 years of age as collected by Statistics Canada). Again, this percentage is higher than every other province in Canada.
 - As a result, per-person funding (i.e., total funding for education divided by the total population of Saskatchewan) is highest in the country. This is a misleading statistic because a greater proportion of Saskatchewan's population requires services in early learning and education.
- The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation calculates per-student funding based on head count enrolment and operational funding as provided to school divisions. These sources are chosen for consistency, comparison across jurisdictions and because they best represent how funding impacts students.

¹ Fraser Institute, *Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada, 2023 Edition* (accessed October 4, 2023). Retrieved from <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/education-spending-in-public-schools-in-canada-2023.pdf>

² Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0005-01 Population estimates on July 1st, by age and sex. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501>

Enrolment

- According to the Government of Saskatchewan, 2022-23 saw the largest student enrolment growth in 20 years.³
- The total number of students increased from 189,924 in 2022-23 to 195,582, representing an increase of 5,658 or 3.0 percent.⁴
- Over five years, the total number of students increased from 184,004 in 2018-19 to 189,924 in 2022-23, representing an increase of 5,920 or 3.2 percent.⁵
- Over six years, the total number of students increased from 184,004 in 2018-19 to 195,582 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 11,578 or 6.3 percent.⁶

Teachers

- The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers decreased from 12,276 in 2021-22 to 12,131 in 2022-23, a decline of 145 teachers (1.2 percent).⁷

Enrolment and Education Trends

- The number of students in Saskatchewan has steadily increased, while the number of teachers has essentially remained flat since 2013-14, except for 2020-21 due to COVID-19.
 - From 2013-14 to 2023-24, the total number of students grew from 170,582 to 193,550, representing an increase of 25,000 students or 14.7 percent, while the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers decreased by 15 FTEs from 2013-14 to 2022-23.
- The number of English as an additional language (EAL)⁸ students increased from 11,678 in 2012-13 to 15,854 in 2021-22, representing an increase of 35.8 percent or over 4,000 more students, while the number of EAL teachers decreased by 15.5 percent between 2013-14 and 2022-23.
- The total number of students that require intensive⁹ supports has increased significantly, from 6,742 in 2007-08 to 9,309 in 2018-19, a growth of 38.1 percent, while the numbers of specialists (such as psychologists) has decreased since 2013-14. The number of psychologists has declined from 62 in 2013 to 54 in 2022, representing a decrease of 13.3 percent.

Students-to-Teacher Ratio

- The ratio of students to regular classroom teachers has increased from 18.6 in 2013-14 to 20.4 in 2022-23, representing an increase of 9.7 percent. This implies that a classroom that had 30 students in 2013-14 would have 32.9 students in 2022-23. Specifically, the increase in the number of teachers did not keep pace with student enrolment growth.

³ Government of Saskatchewan, News Release (accessed October 11, 2023), Retrieved from <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2022/november/02/155-million-funding-to-support-provinces-largest-enrolment-growth-in-over-20-years>

⁴ Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, Provincial K-12 Student Headcount Enrolment Summary (accessed December 18, 2023). Retrieved from <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/77115/formats/86428/download>

⁵ Data from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

⁶ Data from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education.

⁷ Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, Education Sector Staffing Profile.

⁸ Data provided by Gerry Craswell, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education.

⁹ Data provided by Gerry Craswell, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education.

- Students-to-FTEs ratio went up from 14.0 in 2013-14 to 15.7 in 2022-23, representing an increase of 11.5 percent.
- Students-to-psychologist ratio went up from 2,738.1 in 2013-14 to 3,517.1 in 2022-23, representing an increase of 28.5 percent.
- EAL students-to-EAL teacher ratio has increased from 86.9 in 2013-14 to 136.9 in 2021-22, representing an increase of 57.5 percent. This means that an EAL classroom that had 30 students in 2013-14 would have grown to 47.3 students in less than a decade.
- From 2018-19 to 2022-23¹⁰ there was:
 - 15.7 percent reduction in EAL teachers (140 to 124)
 - 7.7 percent reduction in teacher-counsellors
 - 62.7 percent reduction in teacher-librarians
 - 4.9 percent reduction in school psychologists
 - 4.7 percent reduction in teacher-coordinators
 - 8.7 percent increase in speech language pathologists (there were 134.4 FTE SLPs in the province as of 2021-22; however, only about 1 in 4 have a teacher's certificate)
- In the 2022-23 school year there was:¹¹
 - a 2.1 percent increase in enrolment, while the number of classroom teachers declined by 0.7 percent.
 - 1 social worker per 2,588 students
 - 1 psychologist per 2,904 students
 - 1 speech language pathologist per 1,413 students

Provincial Funding

- According to the Government of Saskatchewan estimates¹² for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the K-12 School Operating¹³ Expense represented 13.5 percent of total government Budgetary Expense in 2018-19, in 2022-23 it fell to 11.7 percent¹⁴, and in 2023-24 it fell further to 11.3 percent, even though the student population is growing, and needs are more diverse.

¹⁰ Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, *Education Sector Staffing Profile*.

¹¹ Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, *Education Sector Staffing Profile*. Retrieved from <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/79711/formats/90049/download>

¹² Estimates represent the Government's detailed financial plan for the General Revenue Fund (GRF) presented to the Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year commencing April 1 and ending March 31. The Financial Administration Act, 1993 requires that the Estimates contain any expenditures the Government plans or is committed to make from the GRF in the fiscal year.

¹³ Commencing January 2018, education property tax is redirected from school divisions to the GRF. The school operating allocation includes appropriation to reflect the transfer of education property tax amounts to the GRF. Therefore, school operating grants in 2018-19 may not be comparable to prior years.

¹⁴ K-12 School operating as percent of total government expense for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 based on the Government of Saskatchewan 2023-24 Estimates.
