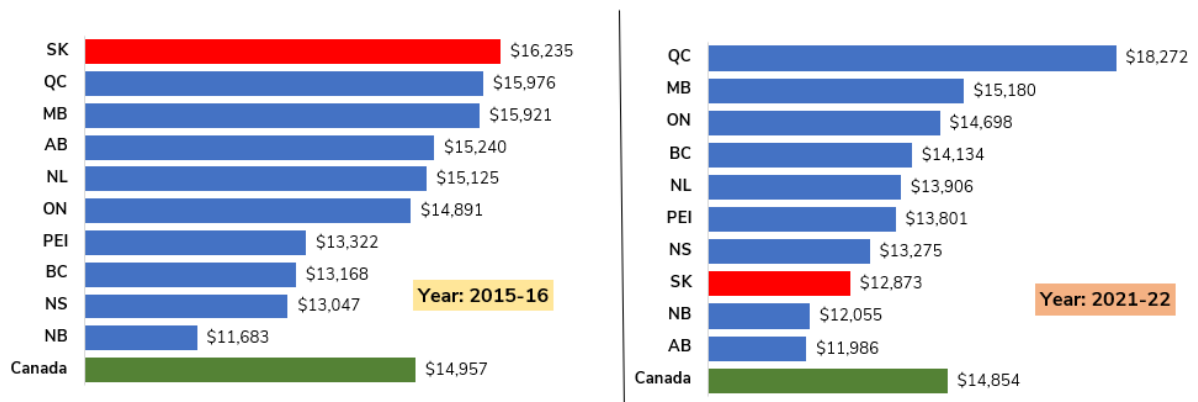


EDUCATION IN SASKATCHEWAN FACTS AND STATISTICS

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 2021-22, it had fallen to the eighth place, representing a reduction of 20.7 percent, after adjustment for inflation.

School Board Operational Funding Per-Student, Adjusted for Inflation (\$2022): 2015-16 versus 2021-22



Source: Statistics Canada. 2024. 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.

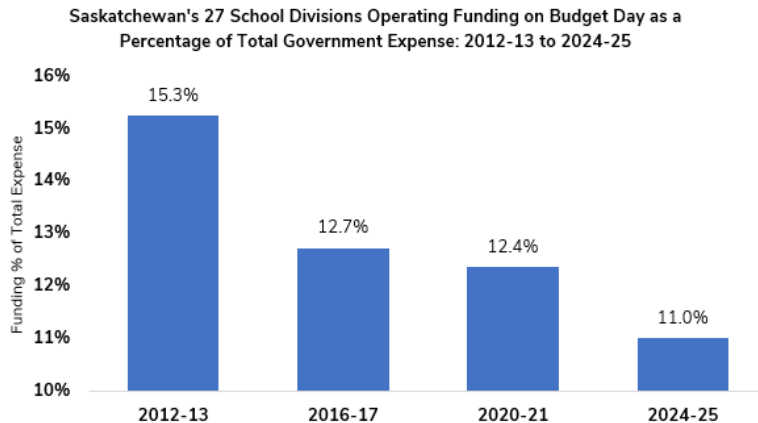
- The most recent numbers from Statistics Canada² show children and youth make up a greater proportion of the population in Saskatchewan than in any other province.
 - 23 percent of Saskatchewan's population is under the age of 17. This is more than any other province.
 - 19 percent of Saskatchewan's 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 gender. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501>

Provincial Education Funding

- According to the Government of Saskatchewan budget reports, K-12 school operating funding represented 15.3 percent of total government budgetary expense in 2012-13, but it fell to 11.0 percent in 2024-25, even though the student population is growing, and needs are more diverse.



Source: Data on school operating funding on budget day from 2012-13 to 2020-21 was provided by Kiefer Erin, Executive Director, Ministry of Education while 2021-22 to 2024-25 is based on School Division's Operating Funding Allocation on budget day reports. Total government expense based on the government of Saskatchewan's public accounts and budgets.

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 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 5,658 or 3.0 percent.⁴
- Over five years, the total number of students increased from 186,386 in 2019-20 to 195,582 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 9,196 or 4.9 percent.⁵
- Over 10 years, the total number of students increased from 173,548 in 2014-15 to 195,582 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 20,034 or 12.7 percent.⁶

Teachers

- The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers rose from 12,131 in 2022-23 to 12,349 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 218 teachers (1.8 percent). Despite this growth, it is important to note that the year-over-year increase still does not equal the 2020-21 figures. There has been a decline of 257 teachers or 2.0 percent decrease compared to the 2020-21 level.⁷

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.

Enrolment and Education Trends

- The number of students in Saskatchewan has steadily increased, while the number of teachers has essentially remained flat since 2016-17.
 - From 2016-17 to 2023-24, the student population experienced a growth of 15,875 students, representing an 8.8 percent increase. Yet, the number of classroom teachers increased by only 10 teachers, or 0.1 percent, over the same period.
- The number of English as an additional language (EAL)⁸ students increased from 12,775 in 2013-14 to 21,794 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 83.7 percent or 9,019 more students, while the number of EAL teachers decreased by 3.4 percent during the same period.
- The total number of students that require intensive⁹ supports has increased significantly, from 6,742 in 2007-08 to 10,442 in 2023-24, a growth of 54.9 percent. Among them, the number of students needing frequent intensive support surged by 105 percent, from 3,703 students to 7,591, during the same period. However, the number of specialists (such as psychologists and speech language pathologists) has decreased by 18.3 percent since 2013-14.

Students-to-Teacher Ratio

- The ratio of students to regular classroom teachers has increased from 18.6 in 2013-14 to 20.6 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 9.7 percent. This implies that a classroom that had 30 students in 2013-14 would have 33.2 students in 2023-24. Specifically, the increase in the number of teachers has not kept pace with student enrolment growth.
- Students-to-psychologist ratio went up from 2,738.1 in 2013-14 to 3,880.6 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 41.7 percent.
- The ratio of EAL students to EAL teachers has increased from 86.9 in 2013-14 to 153.5 in 2023-24, representing an increase of 76.6 percent.
- From 2016-17 to 2023-24¹⁰ there was a:
 - 9.6 percent reduction in EAL teachers
 - 20.3 percent reduction in teacher-counsellors
 - 79.1 percent reduction in teacher-librarians
 - 16.6 percent reduction in school psychologists
 - 8.8 percent reduction in teacher-coordinators
 - 23.5 percent reduction in speech language pathologists
- In the 2023-24 school year there was:¹¹
 - A 3.0 percent increase in enrolment, while the number of classroom teachers increased by 1.9 percent
 - 1 social worker per 3,476 students
 - 1 psychologist per 2,995 students
 - 1 speech language pathologist per 1,367 students

⁸ Data provided by Ministry of Education.

⁹ Data provided by Gerry Craswell, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education and Hansard Verbatim Report on April 8, 2024.

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>