

Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Certification Guide

Early Childhood Educators play an important role in creating and implementing quality early learning and child care programs. Saskatchewan requires educators working in child care centres to hold an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) certification from the Ministry of Education. ECE certification demonstrates that educators have the skills and knowledge to work with young children in a regulated child care facility in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has three levels of ECE certification:

- Early Childhood Educator I
- Early Childhood Educator II
- Early Childhood Educator III

How to Achieve an Early Childhood Educator Certification

In Saskatchewan, there are two ways to achieve ECE certification.

The first way is to complete introductory training, a certificate, or a diploma in early childhood education from a recognized post-secondary institution.

The second way is to complete an *equivalent* amount of course credit units. ECE certification that is based on equivalent education is for individuals, who at the time of application for ECE certification, have completed courses relevant to early childhood education, but who have not completed an ECE credential.

Equivalent courses are typically completed in a program with a human services or education focus, such as a Bachelor of Education (with early childhood courses), an educational assistant program, or a youth care worker program.

For education *equivalent* to a credential in early childhood education, the Ministry of Education assesses each course completed for best fit with a subject area relevant to early childhood education. These subject areas are Child Development, Programming, Relationships and Related.

- **Child Development** means knowledge of the holistic domains of development, including the intellectual, social-emotional, physical and spiritual. The child development subject area involves understanding the interdependence of these domains, and the milestones that mark developmental progress. This subject area also describes how an educator can become attuned to a child's development through observation and authentic assessment.



Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) are essential in creating and implementing quality early learning and child care programs. Ministry of Education ECE Certification is a demonstration that an educator has the knowledge and skill to provide developmentally appropriate programs for young children.

- **Programming** encompasses planning and implementing early learning and child care programs that are supportive of positive early learning and child development outcomes. Programming occurs in the context of play, exploration and discovery, with educators guiding and facilitating play-based opportunities that are determined by children’s interests. The development of programs is guided by an early learning framework, which is individualized to the unique learning needs and dispositions of each child. This subject area also addresses programming for children with intensive needs in early learning and child care settings inclusive of all children.
- **Relationships** means understanding that children grow and learn through positive, responsive interactions with adults in their lives – educators, parents, families – and with their peers. Relationships describe the promotion of positive behaviours and child guidance, the ethics of the early learning and child care profession and effective communication as an early childhood educator and as a member of an educating team. This subject area recognizes and values the communities and cultures in which children grow and learn, including Indigenous cultures in Saskatchewan. Early childhood educators’ positive interactions and engagement with children and families is a focus of this subject area, emphasizing that relationships are the foundation upon which optimal child outcomes are built.
- **Related** involves content which supports subject area expertise, such as Indigenous studies and languages, French language, children’s literature and other general arts courses. Child care centre administration is included in the related subject area. Any course which satisfies the Child Development, Programming and Relationships subject areas can also be used to satisfy the related course category.

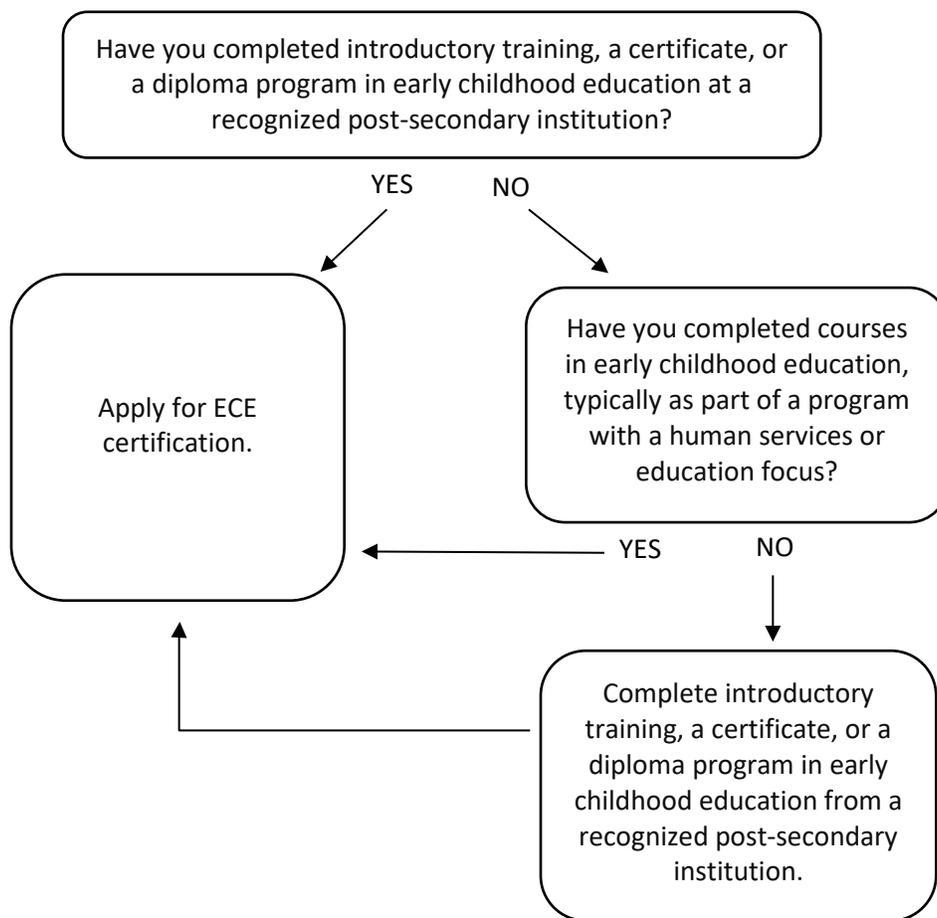
Examples of courses that are considered for equivalent education include the following:

Child Development	Programming	Relationships	Related
Health, Safety and Nutrition	Role of Play	Child Guidance	Introductory general arts (e.g., Sociology, Psychology)
Observation and Assessment in the Early Years	Early Childhood Education Curriculum	Professionalism and Ethics for Early Childhood Educators	
Child Development	Programming for Cognitive Development	Interpersonal Communication for Early Childhood Educators	Indigenous Studies
Language Development	Programming for Social-Emotional Development	Parent Engagement in the Early Years	Indigenous Languages
Cognitive Development	Creative Arts Programming	Anti-Bias Early Childhood Education	Child Care Centre Administration
Social-Emotional Development	Programming for Infants and Toddlers		Children’s Literature
	Inclusion in Early Childhood Education		Child Welfare
			History of Early Childhood Education
			*Any Child Development, Programming or

			Relationships course will satisfy the Related requirement.
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The Ministry of Education assesses early childhood education certificates, diplomas and credit courses completed at recognized post-secondary institutions. Professional development, work experience, courses completed at non-recognized institutions and Montessori training programs are not eligible for ECE certification. Practicums and seminars are not considered for ECE certification based on equivalent education.

Refer to the chart below which provides guidance on pathways to Saskatchewan ECE Certification.





Employing Ministry of Education certified ECEs is a requirement for child care centres in our province. Certified ECEs have formal training through completion of a credential in early childhood education. Completion of courses in early childhood education equivalent to a credential may also be considered for Saskatchewan ECE Certification.

Early Childhood Educator I Certification

A minimum of an Early Childhood Educator I (ECE I) certification is required to work 65 hours or more per month in a regulated child care centre in Saskatchewan. An ECE I can be achieved by completing nine credit units (120 hours) of introductory training in an early childhood education program, or an equivalent amount of education.

Credit units required in each subject area for an ECE I based on equivalent education are:

Equivalent Education Requirements for ECE I		
Child Development	Programming	Relationships
3 credit units	3 credit units	3 credit units

Early Childhood Educator II and Early Childhood Educator III Certification

An Early Childhood Educator II (ECE II) is granted upon successful completion of a one-year certificate or the first year of a two-year diploma in early childhood education from a recognized post-secondary institution, or an equivalent amount of education. Equivalent education means 39 credit units of post-secondary training, with a specific number of credit units required for each subject area. Credit units required in each subject area for an ECE II based on equivalent education are:

Equivalent Education Requirements for ECE II			
Child Development	Programming	Relationships	Related
9 credit units	12 credit units	9 credit units	9 credit units

An Early Childhood Educator III (ECE III) is granted upon successful completion of a two-year diploma in early childhood education from a recognized post-secondary institution, or an equivalent amount of education. Equivalent education means 81 credit units of post-secondary training, with a specific number of credit units required for each subject area. Credit units required in each subject area for an ECE III based on equivalent education are:

Equivalent Education Requirements for ECE III			
Child Development	Programming	Relationships	Related
12 credit units	18 credit units	21 credit units	30 credit units

Refer to the last page of this guide for recognized Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions offering programs in early childhood education.

Steps to Apply for Saskatchewan ECE Certification

1. Applicants Living in Canada

Step 1. Complete the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Certification Application, which can be found online at www.saskatchewan.ca/government/education-and-child-care-facility-administration/become-an-early-childhood-educator.

Step 2. Attach a **copy** of one piece of valid (current, non-expired) proof of identity to the application form. Proof of identity shows your birthdate, legal name and signature.

Acceptable proof of identity includes a copy of one of the following:

- A Saskatchewan Driver's License
- A Saskatchewan Non-Driver's Photo ID (refer to the Saskatchewan Government Insurance website [here](#) for further information about how to apply for this identification)
- A comparable piece of identification from the Canadian province or territory in which you reside

Your proof of identity must match the information provided on your transcripts or course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report). If the name on your transcripts or course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) is different than your identification, you must provide a **copy** of a marriage certificate or change of name document which shows your previous name and your current name.

Step 3. Provide evidence of your post-secondary education to the Ministry of Education. There are two ways to provide evidence of your post-secondary education to the Ministry of Education, depending on whether you completed your training in Canada or the United States, or internationally.

1. Education Completed in Canada or the United States

If you completed your education in Canada or the United States, arrange for your transcript to be sent **directly** to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education will not assess transfer credits identified on your transcript, so ensure that you arrange transcripts to be sent from **each** post-secondary institution you attended if you would like courses from multiple post-secondary institutions assessed.

2. Education Completed Internationally

If you completed your education outside of Canada or the United States, arrange for a course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) to be completed by World Education Services (WES). Your course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) must be sent **directly** by WES to the Ministry of Education. The course-by-course evaluation verifies the Canadian equivalency of the credit units that have been earned.

If you attended more than one post-secondary institution, ensure that you provide WES information for **each** institution you attended. The Ministry of Education does not assess courses identified as transfer credit on your course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report).

Contact information for WES is:

World Education Services (WES)
2 Carleton St, Suite 1400
TORONTO ON M5B 1J3
Phone: (416) 972-0070
Website: www.wes.org/ca/

Step 4. Mail or email your ECE application form to:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
Early Years
Attention: ECE Certification Office
2nd Floor, 2220 College Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 4V9
Email: ececertification@gov.sk.ca

2. Applicants Living Internationally

The Ministry of Education does not issue ECE Certificates to individuals living internationally. However, you may apply for a pre-approval of Saskatchewan ECE qualifications if you have received an Invitation to Apply or a Letter of Receipt of Application from the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP), or if you have a conditional job offer from a regulated Saskatchewan child care facility operator. You will receive a pre-approval of Saskatchewan ECE qualifications letter if you meet the educational requirements for ECE certification.

Step 1. Complete the Pre-Approval of Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Application, which can be found online at www.saskatchewan.ca/government/education-and-child-care-facility-administration/become-an-early-childhood-educator.

Step 2. Attach a **copy** of your valid (current, non-expired) proof of identity to the application form. Proof of identity shows your birthdate, legal name and signature. The Ministry of Education accepts a **copy** of your Passport as proof of your identity.

Your proof of identity must match the information provided on your transcripts or course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report). If the name on your transcripts or course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) is different than your identification, you must provide a **copy** of a marriage certificate or change of name document which shows your previous name and your current name.

Step 3. Attach a **copy** of your Invitation to Apply or Letter of Receipt of Application from SINP to the application form, and/or if you have a conditional job offer from a regulated Saskatchewan child care centre operator, complete the child care centre information on the Pre-Approval of Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Application.

Step 4. Provide evidence of your post-secondary education to the Ministry of Education. There are two ways to provide evidence of your post-secondary education to the Ministry of Education, depending on whether you completed your training internationally, or in Canada or the United States.

1. Education Completed Internationally

If you completed your education outside of Canada or the United States, arrange for a course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) to be completed by World Education Services (WES). Your course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) must be sent **directly** by WES to the Ministry of Education. The course-by-course evaluation verifies the Canadian equivalency of the credit units that have been earned.

If you attended more than one post-secondary institution, ensure that you provide WES information for **each** institution you attended. The Ministry of Education does not assess courses identified as transfer credit on your course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report).

Contact information for WES is:

World Education Services (WES)
2 Carleton St, Suite 1400
TORONTO ON M5B 1J3
Phone: (416) 972-0070
Website: www.wes.org/ca/

2. Education Completed in Canada or the United States

If you completed your education in Canada or the United States, arrange for your transcript to be sent **directly** to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education will not assess transfer credits identified on your transcript, so ensure that you arrange transcripts to be sent from **each** post-secondary institution you attended if you would like courses from multiple post-secondary institutions assessed.

Step 5. Mail or email your Pre-Approval of Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Application to:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
Early Years
Attention: ECE Certification Office
2nd Floor, 2220 College Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 4V9
Email: ececertification@gov.sk.ca

3. ECE Certified by Another Canadian Province Or Territory

Through the provisions of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), if you are an ECE certified by another Canadian province or territory, you can apply for recognition of your certificate at a comparable level in Saskatchewan without undergoing reassessment.

Step 1. Complete the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Certification Application, which can be found online at www.saskatchewan.ca/government/education-and-child-care-facility-administration/become-an-early-childhood-educator.

Step 2. Attach a **copy** of one piece of valid (current, non-expired) proof of identity to the application form. Proof of identity shows your birthdate, legal name, and signature.

Acceptable proof of identity includes a copy of one of the following:

- A Saskatchewan Driver’s License or a Saskatchewan Non-Driver’s Photo ID
- A comparable piece of identification from the Canadian province or territory in which you reside

Step 3. Attach a copy of your certification issued by the Canadian province or territory to your application form. The Ministry of Education – ECE Certification Office will then verify with the appropriate Canadian province or territory that your certificate is valid.

Step 4. Mail or email your ECE application form to:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Education
 Early Years
 Attention: ECE Certification Office
 2nd Floor, 2220 College Avenue
 REGINA SK S4P 4V9
 Email: ecertification@gov.sk.ca

Refer to the following chart for ECE levels in other Canadian jurisdictions that are comparable to Saskatchewan ECE certification.

Province or Territory	Saskatchewan ECE Level		
	ECE I	ECE II	ECE III
Alberta	Early Childhood Educator Level I	Early Childhood Educator Level II	Early Childhood Educator Level III
British Columbia	Early Childhood Educator Assistant	Early Childhood Educator	Early Childhood Educator - Special Needs or Infant/Toddler
Manitoba	N/A	N/A	ECE II or ECE III
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	Level 1	Level 2, 3 or 4
Nova Scotia	Level 1	N/A	Level 2 or 3
Ontario	N/A	N/A	Early Childhood Educator
Prince Edward Island	Early Childhood Educator I	Early Childhood Educator II	Early Childhood Educator III, Early Childhood Supervisor, Early Childhood Director
Yukon Territory	Child Care Worker 1	Child Care Worker 2	Child Care Worker 3

What Happens After I Submit My Saskatchewan ECE Certification Application?

Your completed ECE certification application, including supporting documents, will be assessed in the order it is received.

The Ministry of Education evaluates your transcript to determine if you have completed a program in early childhood education (introductory training, a one-year certificate or the first year of a two-year program, or a two-year diploma) from a recognized, Canadian post-secondary institution.

If you have not been awarded a credential in early childhood education but have completed courses relevant to early childhood education from a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada, the Ministry of Education evaluates each course you completed through an equivalency assessment. All applications with a United States transcript or international course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report), even if you completed an early childhood education program, undergo an equivalency assessment.

The Ministry of Education will notify you of the outcome of your assessment by letter through email and standard mail. If you live in Canada and have been granted an ECE I, ECE II, or ECE III, your certificate will be mailed to the address you provided on your application form. If your assessment was based on equivalent education, you will also receive an assessment sheet which shows the placement of relevant courses in each subject area and identifies required credits to achieve the next ECE certification level.

Applications for ECE certification are typically assessed within four to six weeks.

Requests for Reassessments

If you do not agree with the results of your assessment, you can request a reassessment. Requests for reassessment must be received within **30 days** of the date on the letter which advises you of the outcome of your assessment. To request a reassessment, complete the appropriate section on the Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Certification Application or the Pre-Approval of Saskatchewan Early Childhood Educator Qualifications Application.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is *equivalent* education assessed?

The Ministry of Education assesses each course you have completed for fit with the Child Development, Programming, Relationships, or Related subject areas. Course descriptions or course outlines from post-secondary institutions are used to assess the suitability of a course for a subject area. If you have completed the credit units required for each subject area, you may be awarded or pre-approved for an ECE certification level.

What training is required of regulated child care home providers?

In Saskatchewan, regulation is optional for family child care home providers who care for eight or less children (including their own children younger than 10 years old). Unregulated child care home providers are not required to have training in early childhood education.

Regulated family child care home providers are required to complete one three-credit unit course in early childhood education that addresses child development, programming, or child guidance. Regulated family child care home providers are required to apply to the ECE Certification Office for recognition of

their education. Family child care home providers who have completed one three-credit unit course in early childhood education will receive a letter stating they meet training requirements.

Regulated group family child care home providers who care for twelve or less children are required to complete an ECE I within three years of being regulated. All group family child care homes are required to be regulated in Saskatchewan. Group family child care home providers who have completed training requirements will be issued an ECE I certificate.

I have completed a degree from a recognized, post-secondary institution. Does this automatically lead to an ECE certification level?

Completion of a degree does not automatically lead to an ECE certification level. However, you may consider applying for ECE certification if you have completed courses relevant to early childhood education as part of your degree. Refer to page two for examples of relevant early childhood education courses.

I'm an applicant with international training. What additional information might be requested from me as part of the application or reassessment process?

In cases where there is limited information about courses you completed available in English or French on the post-secondary institution's website, we may request course descriptions or course outlines from you to support placing any relevant courses in the four required subject areas. These course descriptions or course outlines must be translated into English by a certified translator. Refer to the [Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council](#) for further information about translation services. We do not accept course descriptions or course outlines that have been translated by the applicant.

What costs are associated with ECE certification?

There is no fee to apply for a Saskatchewan ECE certification. However, there is a cost for a course-by-course evaluation (ICAP Report) completed by WES. There are also costs associated with translations of course descriptions or course outlines by a certified translator, if this information is requested to process your application. Applicants are responsible for these costs, and there is no guarantee that you will be awarded an ECE certificate.

I received a Saskatchewan ECE certificate, but my name has changed. What do I need to do to be issued a certificate in my new name?

If your name has changed, complete the appropriate sections on the Saskatchewan ECE Certification Application form and attach a **copy** of your marriage certificate or change of name document identifying the former name under which your ECE certificate was issued and your current name. The ECE Certification Office will issue a new certificate in your new name.

I am an international ECE and I would like to immigrate to Saskatchewan. Where can I find out more information?

The provincial pathway to immigration is the SINP. This program allows ECEs living outside of Canada to apply to immigrate to the province with or without a job offer. Information about the SINP can be found on saskatchewan.ca.

I received a pre-approval of ECE qualifications and now live in Saskatchewan. How do I receive my ECE certificate?

If you have pre-approval of ECE qualifications and have moved to Saskatchewan, contact the ECE Certification Office. The ECE Certification Office will provide you with a form to complete which will release your ECE certificate.

Contact Information for The Ministry of Education – ECE Certification Office

If you have questions about Saskatchewan ECE certification, please contact the Ministry of Education’s ECE Certification Office by email at ecercertification@gov.sk.ca or by calling 306-787-7467.

Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Institutions

The following three recognized Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions offer early childhood education programs

<p>Collège Mathieu Website: www.collegemathieu.sk.ca <i>*Courses delivered in French</i></p>
<p>Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) Website: www.siiit.ca</p>
<p>Saskatchewan Polytechnic Website: www.saskpolytech.ca</p>

Regional colleges in Saskatchewan may also offer early childhood education programs and courses. Refer to the regional colleges section [here](#) for further information and links to regional colleges throughout Saskatchewan.