

# Ministry of Education



## Plan for 2021-22

# Table of Contents

**Statement from the Minister .....1**

**Response to Government Direction..... 2**

**Operational Plan .....3**

**Highlights ..... 12**

**Financial Summary..... 14**

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable  
Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Education*

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Education Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

The Ministry of Education's 2021-22 Budget is focused on protecting classrooms, building 21<sup>st</sup> century schools, and growing child care options for Saskatchewan parents.

The 2021-22 Budget is the largest education budget in the history of the province. As we transition from the Education Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2020, we will also look back at a year of unique challenges.

COVID-19 brought with it the decision to develop an interim education plan, created in collaboration with our education partners. This plan will be focused on supporting the specific pandemic-related needs of Saskatchewan schools, which include assisting students and staff in what we hope will be full in-school-learning across the province. The plan will help schools focus on physical and mental wellness for students and staff, provide supportive learning opportunities for students whose learning may have been disrupted. We will continue to work with the education sector to ensure sanitation and safety practices are in place to create a safe-learning environment.

With investments in educational infrastructure, our government continues its dedication to growing Saskatchewan's economy. This commitment will also provide students with modern learning facilities that will help them grow, learn and achieve their full potential.

The pandemic underscored the value high-quality child care provides for families. We are focused on growing the available child care spaces in the province to improve access families have to these supports.

Our duty to students is at the center of everything the Ministry does. We are proud to be making history once more with an increase in educational funding. Looking to the future, we will continue to work with our partners in the education sector to help support students, teachers, staff and parents as we move forward into our next school year.

# Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

## Saskatchewan's Vision

*"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."*



**A Strong Economy**



**Strong Communities**



**Strong Families**

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2021-22 annual reports.

# Operational Plan

## Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Education provides leadership and direction to the early years, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, family literacy, and library sectors. The Ministry supports the sectors through funding, governance and accountability, with a focus on improving student achievement.

The Ministry is committed to improving the learning success and well-being of all Saskatchewan children and youth, and the enhancement of family literacy.

## Mission Statement

The Ministry of Education provides strategic, innovative and collaborative leadership to the early learning and child care, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. It promotes student success, well-being for Saskatchewan children and youth, and improved family literacy as a foundation of the province's social and economic growth.

## Background

The Ministry of Education and its sectors – early years, Prekindergarten to Grade 12, libraries and literacy – are integral to the strong economy, strong communities and strong families envisioned by *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. The priorities of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan* drive the Ministry of Education and sector plans.

The Ministry of Education and its sectors are working to ensure:

- Saskatchewan children prenatal to age eight are safe, healthy and developing to their full potential;
- Saskatchewan students are learning what they need for their future, are safe and supported, feel that they belong, are valued and can be themselves;
- learning facilities are safe, secure and functional;
- library and literacy programs enhance literacy, community vibrancy and contribute to residents' lifelong learning and participation in the economy; and,
- Ministry of Education services and supports are responsive and sustainable.

## Planning with the Sectors

To build upon the progress made in the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector through the implementation of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) – which has guided sector goals and strategies since 2014 – the Ministry of Education is engaged with education sector partners in a new relationship to co-construct a provincial education plan. The *Framework for a Provincial Education Plan 2020-2030* addresses current challenges in education and creates a space within which all Saskatchewan students can become well-educated, active citizens in their communities, the province and the world. The four pillars of the provincial education plan framework are:

- skills and knowledge for future learning, life and participation in society;
- mental health and well-being;
- connections among people and relationships between systems and structures; and,
- inclusive, safe and welcoming learning environments.

*Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan*, the *Framework for a Provincial Education Plan* and the extended *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* continue to drive the work of the early years sector. The overarching goal of the plan is that all Saskatchewan children prenatal to age eight are safe, healthy and develop to their full potential in strong families and supportive communities.

The library and literacy sectors play key roles in developing Saskatchewan residents' literacy skills, and support lifelong learning and student success. The Ministry of Education is working with the library sector to develop a public library sector plan.

The Ministry of Education's work on inter-ministry and community-based strategies (e.g., *Working Together for Change: A 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Plan for Saskatchewan*, *Saskatchewan's Disability Strategy* and *Mental Health Capacity Building*) is reflected in many of the actions within this year's plan.



## Government Goals

### A Strong Economy

### Strong Communities

### Strong Families

#### *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan:*

- "Grow a skilled labour force through education and training."
- "Ensure the PreK-12 system builds resiliency in students and the foundational skills, knowledge and competencies through the completion of a high school diploma."
- "Build pathways to the workforce through the K-12 system."
- "Ensure Saskatchewan's K-12 curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in the sciences, technology, engineering and math to prepare them for future success."
- "Support mental health and wellness in schools."

## Ministry of Education and Provincial Education Plan Goals

In partnership with the education sector, ensure that:

- students are learning what they need for their future;
- students feel safe and supported; and,
- students feel that they belong, are valued and can be themselves.

## Strategy

Provide responsive, relevant and student-centred curriculum.

### Key Actions

- Continue to collaboratively renew and develop secondary curricula following the guiding principles of curriculum renewal.
- Work with the Curriculum Advisory Committee to develop recommendations regarding future curriculum development and renewal and Saskatchewan high school graduation requirements beyond 2023.
- Develop a computational thinking resource that identifies opportunities for teachers to address computational thinking in grades 1 to 6 math and science.
- Ensure renewed or new curricula reflect the goals and principles of *Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework*.

## Strategy

Develop and nurture partnerships and trusting relationships in the education sector.

### Key Actions

- With the Provincial Education Council and Provincial Education Plan Implementation Team, finalize and gain endorsement for interim provincial education plan priority plans focused on supporting students and staff.
- With the Provincial Education Council and Provincial Education Plan Implementation Team, finalize and gain endorsement for the outcomes and actions of the first cycle of the new provincial education plan.
- With the Provincial Leadership Team, conclude the work of the final cycle of the ESSP and report on results.
- Support initiatives that focus on positive mental health and student safety including: *Saskatoon Restorative Action Program*; *Be Kind Online*; and *Kids Help Phone*.
- Promote the use of the *Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexuality Toolkit*.
- Collaborate with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to designate learning institutions for international students during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Strategy

Practice innovation throughout the education sector.

### Key Actions

- Encourage school divisions to use data and effective practices to inform graduation rate improvement planning.
- Work with the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector to assess and adopt the innovations stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic that contribute to improvements in education delivery and student success.
- Continue to support sector partners in developing and implementing projects aimed at generating savings within the education sector to be allocated according to individual sector priorities.
- Together with education partners, host an Indigenous Education Speaker Series and Symposium to inspire commitment toward the vision, goals and principles of *Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework*.
- Support the Youth Council to fulfill its mandate of presenting to the Minister of Education advice and insights on topics of interest to Saskatchewan students.
- Provide support to school divisions for training to build capacity related to mental health and student safety including operationalizing the commitment to train at least one person in each school within all 27 school divisions in Mental Health First Aid.

## Strategy

Work toward equitable access to opportunities, benefits and outcomes.

### Key Actions

- Continue to work with the lead ministries (Social Services, Advanced Education, Economy, Government Relations, Health and Justice) to support the implementation of *Saskatchewan's Disability Strategy*.
- Continue to contract and provide funding to partners for educational services to support the transition of students/youth in hospitals or a custody facility to a school in the community.
- Continue to support and promote the goals and principles of *Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework* to guide actions at all levels of the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education system.
- Work with the ministries of Social Services and Health to expand the *Autism Individual Funding Initiative* for children aged six to 11.
- Work to develop an action plan to address issues related to class size and composition in Saskatchewan classrooms.

## Strategy

Cultivate leadership throughout the education sector.

### Key Actions

- Together with education sector partners, continue to implement *Leading to Learn*, a project to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, teachers and administrators by increasing the knowledge and skill base of administrators in Saskatchewan schools.
- Work with the education sector to develop and implement initiatives in support of mental wellness in the interim provincial education plan.





## Strategy

Support student diversity and wellness.

### Key Actions

- With the ESSP Early Years outcome team, develop online resources to support Prekindergarten and Kindergarten teachers to respond to learning needs of young children with culturally responsive practices.
- Work within the education sector and across government to develop and implement initiatives in support of the interim provincial education plan, *Saskatchewan's Suicide Prevention Plan* and the *Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan*.
- Continue to develop *Supporting All Learners* modules to provide parents and guardians, school staff and supporting professionals quick access to relevant and accurate information and resources for supporting students using a needs-based approach.
- Develop and release newcomer informational packages to address the unique learning needs of newcomer students.

## Strategy

Use proactive and responsive strengths-based approaches throughout the education sector.

### Key Actions

- Develop an online education policy for the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector to establish provincial consistency when delivering online education.
- Promote best practices for online and blended learning to assist teachers with remote learning.
- Promote, support and expand software learning resources and online education platforms to school divisions and First Nation education authorities.
- Develop a multi-year phased implementation of *MySchoolSask/MonÉcoleSask* for First Nation and independent schools.
- Develop an online English as an Additional Language initial assessment for use when students are learning remotely.
- Research and consult with other stakeholders to determine innovative/effective learning models to support the inclusion of students with unique/specific learning needs (e.g., hearing, vision and cognitive disabilities).
- Continue to work with the Ministry of Health to support the Saskatchewan Health Authority's *Mental Health Capacity Building* pilot initiative.
- Regularly review operational policies impacting the Ministry of Education's sectors to ensure they are strategic, relevant, effective and efficient.





## Strategy

Leverage federal and provincial-territorial relationships to further Ministry of Education and government priorities.

### Key Actions

- Ensure initiatives within the action plan of the *Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction* align with the provincial education plan and *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan*.
- Promote and manage bilingual programs for students and teachers through the *Official Languages Programs* and the *Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second-Language Instruction (2019-22 to 2022-23)*, and obtain supplementary funding for program participants on special projects in 2021-22.
- Continue to work with the federal government toward initiatives that strengthen minority language education.
- Engage in targeted discussions and greater coordination between the federal and provincial governments to support seamless access to services for First Nations children and youth aged zero to 18 years.
- Participate on the Council of Ministers of Education's Indigenous Education Committee to share successful practices and actions to improve Indigenous education.
- Collaborate with school divisions to request federal funding for use of technology for French education and French second-language support and second-language instruction.
- Negotiate the *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*, including a one-year workforce initiative.
- Continue to represent Saskatchewan on the *Consultative Committee on Education-Related International Activities* (PCCERIA) and on the *Federal-Provincial Consultative Committee on Education-Related International Activities* (FPCCERIA) to support the *Advisory Committee of Deputy Ministers of Education* in decision making. Through FPCCERIA and PCCERIA, work with school divisions and independent schools on the impact of the COVID-19/post-COVID-19 pandemic on international students.
- Participate on the *International Student Program Working Group* to develop and gain endorsement of a common framework for the designation of learning institutions in Saskatchewan's Kindergarten to Grade 12 sector to comply with federal legislation, enabling independent schools and school divisions to enrol international students.

## Performance Measures

### Education Sector Savings

Number of projects aimed at finding savings in the education sector.

### Curricula Renewed

Number of curricula renewed or developed for Fransaskois, French Immersion and English programs.

### Graduation Rates

Percentage of students who graduate within three years and five years of starting Grade 10 and within eight years or more.

### Credit Attainment

Percentage of grades 10 to 12 students attaining eight or more credits per year.

### French Education and Immersion

Number of students enrolled in French Immersion Instruction programs, French education, Intensive French (Grade 6), Post-Intensive French (grades 7 to 12) programs and Core French classes.

### Student Engagement

Grades 4 to 12 students' responses to a student perception survey that measures engagement, instruction and school environment.



## Government Goals



### A Strong Economy



### Strong Communities



### Strong Families

*Saskatchewan's Growth Plan:*

- "Build the infrastructure required for growth."
- "Increase the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of government's programs and services."

## Ministry of Education and Provincial Education Plan Goals

- Ministry of Education services and supports are responsive and sustainable.
- Safe, secure and functional learning facilities are provided in partnership with the sectors.

## Strategy

Develop a capital asset strategy to recognize and respond to shifting population and facility maintenance and renewal needs in rural and urban areas.

### Key Actions

- Administer the Ministry of Education's four infrastructure funding programs: *Major Capital Program*, *Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Program*, *Emergent Program* and *Relocatable Classroom Program*, and the federal *Climate Action Incentive Fund Program*.
- Partner with SaskTel, school divisions and First Nation schools to ensure CommunityNet (CNet) is upgraded in a timely manner and that network needs are met.

## Strategy

Seek federal investment in infrastructure, as appropriate.

### Key Actions

- Work with Francophone communities to submit proposals to Canadian Heritage under the *Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023* regarding a school community centre and an early learning centre.
- Continue the Ministry of Education's commitment to honouring the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed with the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises.

## Performance Measures

### School Capacity

Percentage of capially-funded Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools with a student enrolment at or below what the building was designed to accommodate.



## Government Goals

**A Strong Economy**

**Strong Communities**

**Strong Families**

*Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan, 2016-20:*

- "All Saskatchewan children prenatal to age eight are safe, healthy and develop to their full potential in strong families and supportive communities."

## Ministry of Education Goal

Children aged zero to six years will be supported in their development to ensure that more students exiting Kindergarten are ready for learning in the primary grades.

## Strategy

Continue to advance the early years sector by working with other human services ministries, school divisions, the Saskatchewan Health Authority and First Nation and Métis partners.

## Key Actions

- Monitor and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the early learning and child care sector to support a stable economic recovery.
- Contribute to the government's platform commitment of increasing the number of licensed child care spaces by 750 spaces over the next four years (230 child care centre spaces, 520 family child care home spaces) by licensing 51 school-based spaces and 176 spaces in 22 homes.
- Continue to support six communities to work collaboratively across sectors to develop local action plans to improve the development of children prior to school entry.
- Develop resources to build capacity in early years programs regarding inclusionary practices to support children with intensive needs.

## Performance Measures

### Accessibility

Number of children in licensed child care and Prekindergarten programs in Saskatchewan.

### Inclusivity

Number of families and communities participating in child care or early learning programs for children experiencing disabilities.

### Early Learning Readiness

Percentage of children whose learning and development is typical for children of the same age in Kindergarten, according to an observational early childhood readiness screening tool.



## Government Goals

### A Strong Economy

### Strong Communities

### Strong Families

#### *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan:*

- "Grow a skilled labour force through education and training."
- "Ensure new Canadians are connected to language training."

## Ministry of Education Goal

Support for library and literacy programs enhances literacy, community vibrancy, and contributes to residents' lifelong learning and participation in the economy.

## Strategy

Enhance and expand family literacy programs and services.

### Key Actions

- Work with family literacy partners to establish a Family Literacy Hub in Northern Saskatchewan.
- Work with eight school divisions that are funded to provide 2021 summer literacy camps, as appropriate, according to the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions.
- Continue to work with Family Literacy Hubs and the Saskatchewan Literacy Network to promote and enhance family literacy programs and services throughout Saskatchewan.

## Strategy

Provide all Saskatchewan residents with equitable province-wide access to all public library services.

### Key Actions

- Support the priorities of the Multitype Library Board focused on the provision of supports to the library sector to create diverse, equitable and inclusive organizations, including specific initiatives supporting truth and reconciliation.
- Implement and administer the Multitype reconciliation training initiative for the Multitype library sector: the *4 Seasons of Reconciliation* professional development module.
- Implement upgrades and changes to the CNet service for public libraries.
- Enhance supports to newcomers with additional multilingual library materials and explore additional accessible services, including "created accessible" options with the Saskatchewan publishing community.
- Continue to support the Alternate Format Materials Library to provide resources to students living with visual impairments or for whom accessing traditional print is difficult.

## Strategy

Support successful library services, programs and governance.

### Key Actions

- Work with the public library sector on next steps to develop and implement a public library sector plan.
- Provide online learning and development supports to the public library sector with a focus on e-learning resources and tools.
- Update the *Public Library Financial Reporting Manual*.





## Performance Measures

### Summer Literacy Camps

Number of participating school divisions.

Number of participants.

### Multitype Libraries

Number of individuals having completed the *4 Seasons of Reconciliation* professional development module.

### Public Libraries

Number of registered active borrowers.

Number of programs provided by public libraries.

Ratio of language collections to newcomer population. Usage of multilingual library resources.

Number of upgraded CNet public library locations.

Number of e-learning sessions provided to sector, usage of sessions.

# Highlights

## 2021-22 Budget Highlights:

- The 2021-22 Budget provides \$2.66 billion to support Prekindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms, early learning and child care, and libraries and literacy. This is a \$59.6 million, or 2.3 per cent per cent, increase over last fiscal year.
- Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.96 billion in school operating funding for the 2021-22 school year. This is an increase of \$19.2 million over last school year.
- There is nearly \$15.0 million in operating grants for qualified independent schools and historical high schools. This includes an increase of \$3.1 million for qualified independent schools to address increased costs, including increased enrolment.
- There is \$189.9 million for school capital, an increase of \$22.3 million or 13.3 per cent, as part of the province's ongoing capital plan, including:
  - \$101.9 million to support 21 ongoing capital projects to build 16 new schools and renovate five existing schools including:
    - completing construction on a new elementary school in Weyburn that is set to open in fall 2021;
    - beginning construction on a new joint-use facility with two elementary schools in Regina to replace Argyle and St. Pius elementary schools;
    - completing design and beginning construction as early as spring 2022 on:
      - ❖ a new elementary school to replace Princess Alexandra, King George and Pleasant Hill elementary schools in Saskatoon;
      - ❖ a new elementary school to replace St. Frances Elementary School in Saskatoon;
      - ❖ a new Francophone elementary school in Regina;
      - ❖ a new joint-use facility with two elementary schools in Regina's Harbour Landing neighborhood;
      - ❖ a joint-use facility with two elementary schools to replace St. Peter, St. Michael, Imperial and McDermid elementary schools in Regina;
      - ❖ a joint-facility with two new elementary schools in Moose Jaw to consolidate four existing schools;
      - ❖ a new school to consolidate the elementary school and high school in Carrot River;
      - ❖ a new elementary school to replace Ducharme Elementary School in La Loche;
      - ❖ a new K-12 school to replace Blaine Lake Composite School;
      - ❖ a new K-12 school to replace and consolidate the elementary school and high school in Lanigan;
      - ❖ renovations to Yorkton Regional High School;
      - ❖ renovations and addition to John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford;
      - ❖ renovations and addition to Holy Rosary High School in Lloydminster;
      - ❖ renovations and addition to Lloydminster Comprehensive High School; and,
      - ❖ renovations and addition to Athol Murray College of Notre Dame.
  - \$8.8 million to complete 15 maintenance projects around the province, as part of the government's two-year, \$25.9-million stimulus funding commitment.
  - \$67.9 million in ongoing funding for preventative maintenance, renewal and emergency funding, \$12.0 million from the *Canada-Saskatchewan Climate Action Initiative Fund*.
  - \$10.33 million for relocatable classrooms; and,
  - \$1.0 million for school facility assessments.
- \$100.8 million for child care and early learning, which includes:
  - \$75.5 million for licensed child care, which includes approximately \$13.6 million from the *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*. Also included is an increase of \$2 million in provincial funding.
  - \$16.3 million in funding for *KidsFirst*, an increase of \$256,000; and,
  - \$4.5 million for Early Childhood Intervention Programs, an increase of \$70,000.
- \$2.5 million for Child Nutrition Programs, an increase of \$38,000.
- \$11.3 million in ongoing supports for libraries including:
  - \$6.1 million in resource sharing grants for the seven regional library systems;
  - Nearly \$1 million in resource sharing grants for Paskisimon Nuyehāh Library System in Northern Saskatchewan;
  - \$1.4 million for municipal libraries in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert; and,
  - \$2.8 million to support accessible library services and infrastructure including internet connectivity and the Single Integrated Library System.



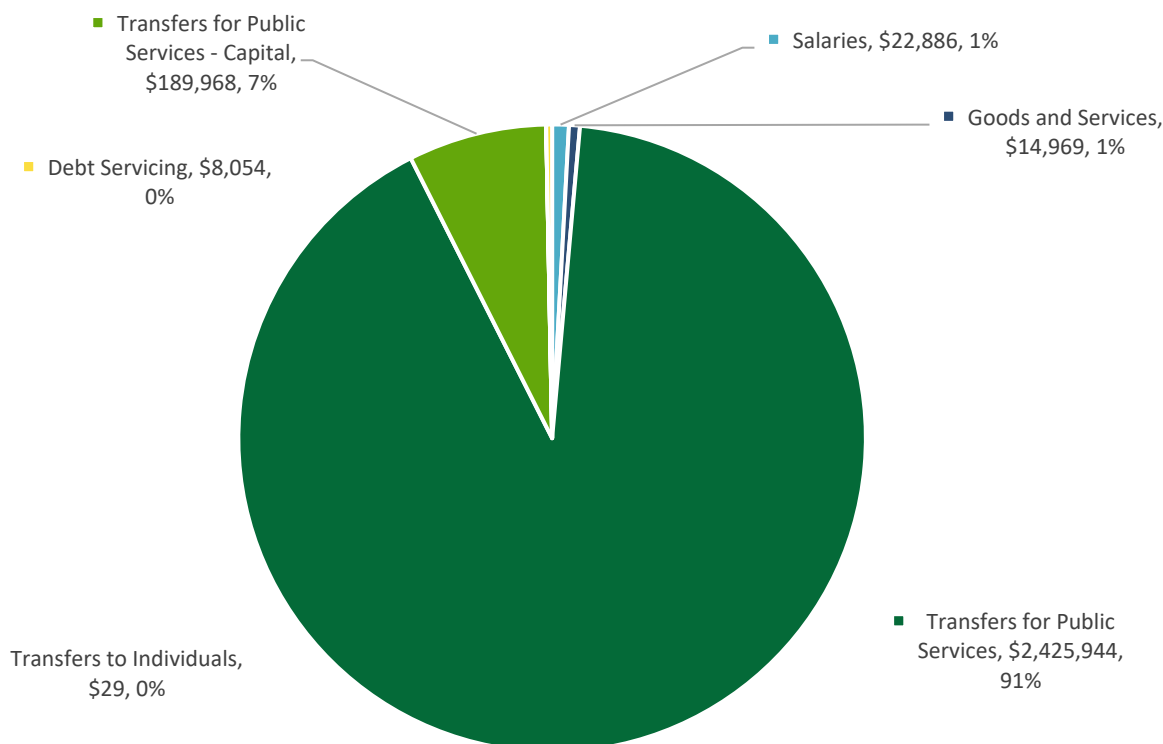
- \$1.0 million to support Saskatchewan’s literacy programs, including:
  - \$550,000, an increase of \$9,000, for the network of eight Family Literacy Hubs; and,
  - \$500,000 to continue to support the summer literacy programs provided by eight school divisions.
- \$5.1 million in ongoing funding to support the government’s ongoing response to the *Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People* for the following initiatives:
  - \$2.4 million to continue the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
  - \$2.1 million to continue to support *Following Their Voices* (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
  - \$300,000 to continue to support *Help Me Tell My Story* and *Help Me Talk About Math*, interactive tools used to assess Prekindergarten and Kindergarten children’s oral language development and Grade 1 students’ understanding in mathematics in a fun, innovative way;
  - \$200,000 to continue to support *Leading to Learn*, a professional learning opportunity for provincial and First Nations’ school principals; and,
  - \$145,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing for First Nations’ schools.

# Financial Summary

Ministry of Education 2021-22 Estimates		(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services		\$13,816
K-12 Education		\$2,108,692
Early Years		\$100,754
Provincial Library and Literacy		\$14,437
<b>Appropriation</b>		<b>\$2,237,699</b>
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment		\$389
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,238,088</b>
Teachers' Pension and Benefits		\$424,151
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,662,239</b>
<b>Total Appropriation</b>		<b>\$2,661,850</b>

For more information, see the Budget Estimates here: [www.saskatchewan.ca/budget](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget).

Ministry Spending by Category (\$000s)



## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry of Education's website here: [www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education).