

# Education in Saskatchewan: A Guide for Arriving Ukrainians

This information is a guide intended for families who are thinking about immigrating to Saskatchewan or just recently landed and have limited or no experience with the education system in Saskatchewan.

For specific questions, please contact the school/school division in which you will be enrolling your child.

## Choosing a School

### What is the school age in Saskatchewan?

All children must attend school from ages 6 to 16. Children can start school as early as ages 3-4 (Prekindergarten), if available, and can continue up to the age of 22.

### What types of schools are available?

There are three types of school systems in Saskatchewan:

- Public school divisions provide education to all students.
- Separate school divisions provide faith-based education.
- Francophone school division provides education to students with francophone backgrounds.

Most students attend the school in their neighbourhood. Parents may choose a school for their child, according to religious affiliation, language of instruction, or special programs offered.

Registered independent schools and home-based education options are also available:

- Some parents may choose to enrol their children in a registered independent (private) school. Registered independent schools are eligible to charge parents/guardians tuition to attend.
- Families may choose to teach their children at home. Children who are home-schooled must be registered with the local school division.

Once your landing location is determined, you can contact the school for further information. You can use our [interactive map](#) to find what school divisions are near you.

## What languages are taught in Saskatchewan?

Schools provide education primarily in English but may also offer French Immersion from Kindergarten to Grade 12. French Immersion programs are targeted at students who have English or a language other than French as a first language. French is the language of instruction for most of the subjects. Please contact your school division to learn about locally developed language options.

## Important Documents

### What documents should I bring to the school?

You should contact the school where you wish to enrol your child. Remember to bring any identification or documents you may have (e.g., passport, work or study permit, permanent resident card, Saskatchewan health services card, etc.).

## Enrolment

### How do I enrol my child in school?

School starts in early September and ends in late June. Schools accept new students throughout the school year. Students do not need to wait for a new school year to start school if arriving in the middle of a year. To enrol your child, you need to fill out the school's enrolment forms. You can get enrolment forms from the school or on the school's website.

Upon arrival, you can contact the school or school division to ask any specific questions related to schooling (e.g., school policies and practices, required school supplies, transportation).

If you have difficulty communicating in English ask someone who speaks the language to help you. Schools have access to multilingual interpretation services that enable parents to articulate educational needs in their first language.

### What is the typical grade placement?

Students are usually placed in grades with peers that are close in age.

Prekindergarten is usually a half-day program for three-and four-year-old children. It is available in a small number of schools and families need to apply for their children to attend. You will need to contact the school to find out if Prekindergarten is available.

In grades 10 to 12, students take courses at different grade levels, depending on their prior education and knowledge in specific subject areas and language proficiency.

Below is the typical grade placement:

Level of Study	Grade Placement	Age
Elementary	<u>Preschool, Prekindergarten</u>	3-4
	Kindergarten	4-5
	Grade 1	5-6
	Grade 2	6-7

	Grade 3	7-8
	Grade 4	8-9
	Grade 5	9-10
	Grade 6	10-11
	Grade 7	11-12
	Grade 8	12-13
	Grade 9	13-14
Secondary	Grade 10	14-15
	Grade 11	15-16
	Grade 12	16-17 *

\*Student can attend school up to the age of 22. The final decision of grade placement will be made at the school.

### **Will my child receive help while learning their new language?**

Each school in Saskatchewan is responsible for supporting newcomer students in learning English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Your child will also be assessed by the school for school readiness, including language ability. Depending on the language level of your child, they may need additional time and supports to achieve language proficiency.

Students over the age of 18 years who require additional English language supports should contact a local high school or post-secondary institution (e.g., [Regional Colleges](#), [Saskatchewan Polytechnic](#)) to find out what programs are available.

## **High School Completion**

### **What does my child need to graduate with a Grade 12 program standing (24 credits)?**

To graduate with a Grade 12 program standing students must successfully complete and pass 24 course credits.

[Saskatchewan High School Credit Options](#) provides an overview of what you need to graduate in Saskatchewan with a Grade 12 program standing – what's required and where you have choices.

Students may be given credits for their previous learning in their country of origin. You will need to contact the school to determine what documents may need to be submitted.

## **Other Programs**

### **Do schools have settlement services to help families?**

In some school communities you may be able to access the [Settlement Workers in Schools \(SWIS\)](#) program. SWIS can help newcomer students and their families adjust to their new school and community.

## Early Years and Child Care

### What programs are available for children who are not school age?

#### Licensed Child Care

There are two types of licensed child care options in Saskatchewan: child care centres and child care homes. Licensed child care means these child care options meet minimum provincial standards.

- **Child care centres** provide full-time child care services for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children while parents work or go to school. Child care centres may be located in schools, multi-purpose buildings, or other community settings.
- **Child care homes** provide full-time child care for up to eight children in a provider's own home. There are also some Francophone child care home providers.

Parents are responsible for finding child care that meets their needs. Contact information for licensed child care facilities is available online.

#### Unlicensed Child Care and Preschool Programs

Some child care homes are not licensed. These homes provide care for up to eight children in a provider's home. These home providers do not hold a licence from the Ministry of Education.

Preschools offer early learning programs for young children. Preschools are also not licensed and are open in the morning and afternoon. The preschools are usually run by community organization and are only half a day.

#### Early Years Family Resource Centres

Saskatchewan has Early Years Family Resource Centres in several communities. These centres provide programs and services to parents and caregivers of children 0-5 years old. Families may drop into the centre any time, and programming is free. Staff members can provide you with information on local supports available to your family, or you may participate in a wide variety of available programming in the centre, such as:

- parent-child play-together programs;
- parent-child music and literacy programs;
- parent education programs; and,
- program and information sessions by local health care professionals.

More information on Saskatchewan's Early Years Family Resource Centres can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/community-programs-for-new-families-in-canada>

Saskatchewan also has French Family Resource Centres in various rural and urban communities.

## Home Visiting Programs

If you have concerns about your child's development, Saskatchewan offers free programs with caring staff members who will visit and work with you and your child right in your home.

- **Early Childhood Intervention Program**  
Home-based specialized services and support to families with children who are experiencing developmental delay or disability.
- **KidsFirst Targeted**  
Home-based visits and supports for families with children who are at risk of having their development affected because of vulnerable circumstances, changing family situations, or significant life changes, such as moving to Saskatchewan. The program enhances parenting knowledge, provides support, and builds on family strengths.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/community-programs-for-new-families-in-canada>

## Libraries

### What other programs are available for families?

A public library is a place where you can:

- find and read all kinds of books, magazines, newspaper, movies and music;
- use computers and Wi-Fi;
- join classes and take programs; and,
- use your library card to take books, movies and music home with you.

Public libraries offer many different types of classes and programs, including:

- story times and activities for children and families;
- classes for people learning EAL;
- computers skills;
- book clubs; and,
- homework help.

### How do I use the library?

If you want to borrow books or other materials, you need a library card. Library cards are free and can be found at a library in your community. Bring identification and proof of your current address (e.g., utility bill). Children under 14 years of age do not need identification to get a card, but they need their parent or guardian to sign.

### Do libraries have books in different languages?

Public libraries offer books and online newspapers in many languages other than English and French, including Ukrainian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Urdu, Bengali, and more. Staying

fluent in your home language will help you learn additional languages. Talk to a library staff member for more information.

**Does the library have online resources I can use?**

Libraries offer access to the internet and have apps and digital resources for reading, watching movies, listening to books, newspapers and music. Talk to a library staff member for more information.

**Are there any family literacy programs available in Saskatchewan?**

There are English literacy programs available to Saskatchewan families.

Family literacy programs give opportunities to learn about:

- the importance of language and reading;
- the role that family members can play in reading with their children;
- interactive literacy activities to support a child's literacy development at home and in school; and,
- how to access learning resources through the library or their community.