

# Business Plan

2024-25

Ministry of Education

*Saskatchewan!* 

# Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Jeremy Cockrill  
Minister of Education*

I am honoured to present the 2024-25 Ministry of Education Business Plan.

This year's education budget provides a record investment centered on building a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan students and families. In collaboration with our partners in education, early learning and the library and literacy sectors we continue to meet the growing needs of Saskatchewan families and communities.

In the 2024-25 school year, school divisions across the province will be in year two of implementing the long-term Provincial Education Plan (PEP) which aligns with the goals of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan and sets the course for education until 2030. This plan is our commitment to Saskatchewan students and their families.

In collaboration with our sector partners, we are working to develop the new provincial assessment program which will support improved outcomes for Saskatchewan students. Having a provincial assessment program will build on the valuable work of teachers and provide precise and timely information that will lead to improved outcomes for all students by supporting each student's strengths and needs. Our government and the education sector will continue to support student success by working together.

As we continue to meet the growing needs of Saskatchewan families and communities, our commitment to enhancing the educational landscape in Saskatchewan remains a focal point. The recently announced enrolment growth formula and the two pilot programs, the Specialized Support Classroom Pilot and the Teacher Innovation and Support Fund, will provide further opportunities for classroom, student and teacher success.

Saskatchewan's early childhood educators also play an integral role in supporting the growth and development of children. We are making important investments in early childhood educator wages, tuition-free post-secondary education and grants to support individuals in their learning and in their work to support the development of Saskatchewan's youngest citizens. An investment in early childhood education is an investment in our future.

The Ministry of Education is committed to life-long learning and libraries are essential to giving the people of our province access to knowledge. As a government, we remain dedicated to ensuring First Nation perspectives, languages and traditions are a part of all Saskatchewan students' learning experience. Development is currently underway for a Métis and First Nations Languages Framework to support language learning at the elementary level.

Empowering Saskatchewan students, staff and families is key to building a prosperous future for the next generation. As we continue to embrace growth that works for everyone, we do so focusing on classrooms, care and communities.

# 2024-25 Budget Highlights

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>The Government of Saskatchewan is providing a record \$3.3 billion education budget including the largest ever increase of 8.8 per cent to Saskatchewan schools.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Saskatchewan’s 27 school divisions will receive a record \$2.2 billion in school operating funding for the 2024-25 school year, an increase of \$180 million or 8.8 per cent over last year. This is the largest ever increase in school operating funding in Saskatchewan’s history.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Government’s commitment to provide classroom supports increases to \$356.6 million, an increase of \$45.6 million or 14.7 per cent over last year and includes ongoing funding for the Specialized Support Classroom and Teacher Innovation and Support Fund pilot programs.</p> <p>This budget addresses record enrolment growth in our province and provides funding to support school operating pressures.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>\$216 million is invested for school infrastructure, an increase of \$68.7 million or 46.6 per cent over last year and includes funding for planning nine new schools and two renovations. This includes \$165.9 million in ongoing funding for 11 new or consolidated school projects and three major renovations that are underway across Saskatchewan. Enrolment growth is supported with \$28.5 million for relocatable classrooms.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>The 2024-25 Budget provides \$408.7 million for early learning and childcare, in support of Saskatchewan families. This includes an increase of \$21.1 million over last year for the Federal-Provincial Child Care Agreements. This funding continues to support child care at \$10 a day for children under six making Saskatchewan one of the most affordable places in Canada to live and raise a family.</p> <p>The Government of Saskatchewan is also committed to adding more regulated home-based and centre-based child care spaces in the province, creating more jobs for our growing province.</p>

# Government Vision and Goals

## 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."**

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals (Strong Economy, Strong Communities and Strong Families) 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 2024-25 annual reports.

## Ministry of Education Overview

### Mandate

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

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.

## **Goal 1: Saskatchewan citizens of all ages learn, develop and experience improved quality of life.**

This ministry goal supports the achievement of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030* by: supporting and developing lifelong learning and participation in the economy through a skilled labour force; building better communities and stronger families through improved education and training through all stages in life; providing greater access to child care and early learning; and building an inclusive and diverse community for people from all walks of life, giving Saskatchewan residents a better quality of life.

### **Strategy 1.1:**

Improve learner outcomes.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Work with the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector to develop a province-wide plan to assess and support student learning and success.
- Support the early years and literacy sectors and Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in providing learners with necessary foundational skills, knowledge and competencies.
- Strengthen partnerships to prepare learners for post-secondary education, entrepreneurship, business and self-management of their careers.

### **Strategy 1.2:**

Improve access to services and programs.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Implement actions to achieve the affordability, quality, access and inclusion targets established in the *Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement* and the *Canada Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*.
- Explore ways to improve the reach and delivery of services through family resource centres and Mobile Early Learning.
- Continue to improve online access to programs, resources and services.
- Work with other ministries to advance Saskatchewan's Children and Youth Strategy.

### **Strategy 1.3:**

Improve services and supports by identifying and sharing innovative practices.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Implement pilot projects to assess approaches to classroom complexity.

**Performance Measures:**

Early learning readiness, Grade 3 reading levels and graduation rates are important indicators. Readiness for learning by the end of Kindergarten sets the foundation for future learning and success in school. Grade 3 reading levels are a predictor of success in school. Grade 12 graduation is an important milestone and measure for the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education system. Generally, individuals who complete Grade 12 have more opportunities for education and work, and experience better health and well-being. When more students graduate, Saskatchewan benefits from an educated and engaged population and availability of skilled and knowledgeable entrepreneurs and employees.

**Early Learning Readiness**

Percentage of children in Kindergarten whose learning and development is typical for children of the same age.

**Reading Levels**

Percentage of students in Grade 3 reading at or above grade level.

**Graduation Rates**

Percentage of students graduating within three years and five years of starting Grade 10.

## Goal 2: Indigenous learners experience improved outcomes.

This ministry goal supports the achievement of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030* by: delivering on the growth of the economy, communities and families through equitable opportunities for all residents. We achieve this goal by working in partnership with Indigenous peoples, recognizing our shared history and honouring Indigenous voices and contribution.

### Strategy 2.1:

Improve outcomes and opportunities for Indigenous learners through partnerships and relationships.

#### Key Actions:

- Continue to work with First Nations and Métis education organizations in the implementation of the Provincial Education Plan.
- Work with partners in education toward the vision and goals of *Inspiring Success: Prek-12 First Nations and Métis Education Policy Framework*.
- Work with First Nations education systems to share access to training, network connectivity, security, and licensed applications.
- Enhance opportunities for learning and family literacy in northern Saskatchewan.
- Work with Indigenous partners and the Government of Canada to maximize support for Indigenous learners.

### Strategy 2.2:

Support action toward reconciliation, honouring the contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

#### Key Actions:

- Improve cultural relevance and responsiveness in ministry and sector supports and services by engaging with Indigenous partners, Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Assist the library and literacy sectors in creating diverse, equitable and inclusive organizations, including initiatives specific to truth and reconciliation.
- Plan and implement actions in the ministry and sectors that advance progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and Principles of Reconciliation.
- Continue to implement initiatives that respond to the Calls for Justice from the *Final Report of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

#### Performance Measures:

Actualizing the vision and goals of *Inspiring Success* is one of the four priorities of the Provincial Education Plan to 2030. The Ministry of Education has worked with the education sector to create this plan. Through professional development, continued inclusion of Indigenous voices in curriculum and resource development, Indigenous learners will experience improved outcomes.

#### Closing the Achievement Gap

Overall graduation rates will increase annually with a focus on decreasing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

### **Goal 3: Saskatchewan citizens of all ages feel valued, safe and supported in their learning and development.**

This ministry goal encourages the achievement of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030* by: supporting the family literacy sector and Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education systems in building resiliency in students. Through fostering physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being in learners of all ages; the ministry aims to build the foundational skills, knowledge, and competencies of citizens.

#### **Strategy 3.1:**

Support safe, respectful, inclusive and culturally affirming environments for learning, growing and developing.

##### **Key Actions:**

- Support quality learning environments through investments in family literacy, early years and Kindergarten to Grade 12 operations and infrastructure.
- Work with sector partners to create safe, inclusive learning environments that respect learners' diverse cultures, languages, experiences and world views.

#### **Strategy 3.2:**

Foster an environment that supports physical and mental health for all learners.

##### **Key Actions:**

- Work with the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector to implement actions that will enhance mental health and well-being capacity in students.

#### **Performance Measures:**

When students feel connected to and safe in school, they will be more engaged in learning.

#### **Student Experience**

Percentage of students that report a sense of connection and safety in schools.

## **Goal 4: Saskatchewan’s early years, Prekindergarten to Grade 12, library and literacy sectors are effective.**

This ministry goal supports the achievement of *Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan 2020-2030* by: delivering on a transparent strategic direction, effective governance and communication and mechanisms to monitor growth and accountability in the education sector.

### **Strategy 4.1:**

Provide leadership and strategic direction to the early years, Prekindergarten to Grade 12, library and literacy sectors.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Cultivate an engaged, and high performing representative workforce through recruitment strategies and professional development opportunities.
- Provide effective stewardship and oversight of sector delivery partners.
- Work with partners in the sectors to develop, implement, monitor and report on progress for sector strategic plans.
- Leverage federal and provincial-territorial relationships and agreements to further government, Ministry of Education and sector priorities.

### **Strategy 4.2:**

Encourage and support equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### **Key Actions:**

- Support sector partners in achieving efficiencies.
- Review and implement improvements to programs, policies and processes to ensure they are achieving objectives and expectations.

#### **Performance Measures:**

To provide effective leadership to its sectors, the ministry requires an engaged, high performing representative workforce. We are committed to improved outcomes year- over- year through the following performance measures:

#### **Recruitment and Retention**

Percentage of ministry staff who self-identify as Indigenous.

Percentage of ministry staff who self-identify as Persons experiencing a Disability.

#### **Employee Engagement**

Employees feel they have support to be effective in their work.

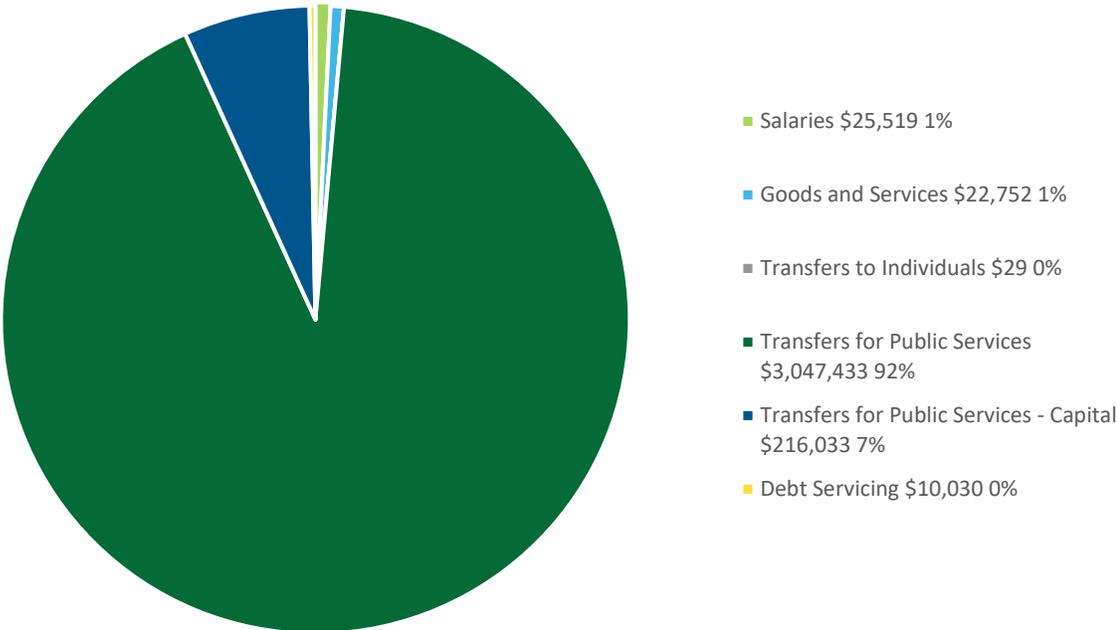
# 2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<b>1</b>	<p>Saskatchewan school divisions are piloting a new specialized support classroom focusing on helping staff manage and de-escalate behavioural incidents.</p> <p>The pilot will provide a classroom with specialized supports to help students practice self-regulation skills while also addressing the impacts of disruptions in the home classroom. The pilot is expected to provide long-term solutions for targeted intervention methods and increase teacher capacity to manage complex classrooms. This pilot responds to the needs of students and by extension, benefits families. New specialized supports classrooms help to address classroom complexity in Saskatchewan.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>With the establishment of the new <i>Teacher Innovation and Support Fund</i> the opportunity to foster local, teacher-led solutions while addressing classroom and student needs is enhanced. Funding will be provided to applicable Saskatchewan teachers, with the support of their local school division, to access funding for projects that assist in providing better student and teacher experiences within today's classrooms. The goal of this fund is to have local, innovative ideas brought forward to continue to enhance our classrooms in such areas as student achievement, student and teacher wellness, and school safety.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada recently announced \$23.5 million for the creation of 2,349 new regulated child care spaces across the province. Funding for the newly announced spaces has been allocated to 51 organizations in 41 communities that will either build new facilities or add new spaces within their existing facilities. Funding for these new spaces is provided through the <i>Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement</i>, which provides a federal investment of nearly \$1.1 billion over five years for child care in Saskatchewan. These spaces will support positive child development, early literacy and future student achievement. This benefits Saskatchewan's citizens as it provides affordable child care options, create new child care spaces, and in turn, supports parents in the workforce.</p>

# Financial Summary

<b>Ministry of Education 2024-25 Estimates (\$3,321,796)</b>		<b>(in thousands of dollars)</b>
Central Management and Services		\$13,492
K-12 Education		\$2,442,939
Early Years		\$408,661
Provincial Library and Literacy		\$15,733
<b>Total Appropriation</b>		<b>\$2,880,825</b>
Teachers' Pension and Benefits		\$440,971
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$3,321,796</b>
<b>Total Appropriation</b>		<b>\$3,321,796</b>

**MINISTRY SPENDING BY CATEGORY (\$000s)**  
**\$3,321,796**



**Links to More Information**

- [Ministry of Education](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)