

## Who must attend school?

All children in Saskatchewan must attend school from ages 7 to 16.

## What types of schools are available?

Typically, elementary schools have students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8, while most secondary schools have students in Grades 9-12.

There are three types of school divisions in Saskatchewan:

- [Public schools](#) do not provide faith-based education.
- [Separate schools](#) do provide faith-based education (primarily Roman Catholic).
- [Francophone schools](#) provide education to students whose first language is French.

Independent Schools and Home-based Education are also available:

- Some children may go to [independent \(private\) schools](#). Families typically pay tuition fees.
- Families may choose to teach their children at [home](#). Children being home-schooled must be registered with the local school division.

## In what languages can my child study?

- 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.
- Some schools offer instruction in Ukrainian, Spanish, Cree, among others. To find out more about these language programs, please contact the school division in your community.
- The [Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages](#) (SOHL) is a provincial organization for community-based heritage language schools. These schools offer instruction in over 35 different languages after school hours and/or during summer months.

## Will my child receive additional supports while learning their new language?

Each school in Saskatchewan is responsible for supporting newcomer students learning English as an Additional Language (EAL). Students attend regular classes, but receive extra English language support according to need. Support at school is also available for students whose language of instruction is French.

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

## How do I register my child in school?

Families can register their child at school at any time during the school year. To register your child in a school, you may need to provide the following documents, translated into either English or French, to school administrators:

- birth certificate or other documents (e.g., a passport) for proof of identity, citizenship, and age;
- Saskatchewan health services card or equivalent;
- official (certified) translation of school records (e.g., transcripts- preferably issued by the government rather than the school); and,
- baptismal certificate (often requested in separate schools).

## How much do I have to pay for my child to go to school?

Canadian Citizens, refugees, permanent, and temporary residents with work permits do not pay tuition fees, except at independent schools. School Divisions may charge tuition fees to non-Saskatchewan residents (i.e., those with visitor or student visas, etc).

Families may be asked to buy basic school supplies (e.g., coloured pencils, notebooks, pens, scissors, binders, ruler, etc.) for their children. A list of what is required for each student in each grade is typically provided. Additional fees may be requested for your child to participate in special events, school trips, class activities or class projects. When these fees are requested, you will typically receive a letter from your child's teacher outlining what the fees are for and when they are due.

## Will my child's school provide food?

Some schools may have food programs (i.e., breakfast, snack, and/or lunch). Families should inquire with the principal or teacher to see if a food program exists. If this type of program is unavailable, families will be required to provide food (i.e., breakfast, lunch) for their children. Information about healthy food choices is available on the [Health Canada website](#). If students have severe allergies to foods, such as nuts, the school will ask all students to refrain from bringing these foods to school. Families should note food allergies or particular eating habits to the principal or teacher. Information about the school's healthy eating/nutrition policy can be requested.

## If I have questions, who should I contact at my child's school?



## **What is expected of students at school?**

Students are expected to co-operate fully with teachers, the school principal, and other staff. Students are also expected to:

- attend school regularly and arrive on time;
- complete their homework/studies; and
- be respectful and cooperative.

## **What is expected of families?**

It is important for families to speak with their child's teachers, to ask questions, and to be informed. Families are encouraged to participate in school events and in the School Community Council.

It is beneficial for families to share information with their child's teacher about:

- the education system in their home/former country;
- the role of the teacher in their home/former country;
- the role of families in their home/former country; and
- the expectations of students in their home/former country.

Families are encouraged to ask for information from their child's teacher about:

- the education system in Canada;
- the teacher's role in Canada;
- expectations of families at school;
- parent involvement in the school system; and
- teacher expectations of students.

## **Helpful Suggestions**

After registering at school, ask for a school calendar or student handbook. School information, important dates and events will be available for reference. Families should also ask the teacher or principal for the school's contact information.

If you have difficulty communicating in English or French, ask someone who speaks the language to help you. Schools may have access to interpreters or translators who could meet with and assist families.

If your child will not be at school, please contact the teacher or telephone the school and leave a message. Students are permitted to be absent from school when they are sick or if they have a medical appointment.

## Resources

[Association of Translators and Interpreters in Saskatchewan](#) (Translation services of official school documents)

*\*Translators and Interpreters can also be accessed through cultural or immigrant serving agencies.*

[Children's Education in Saskatchewan](#)

[Curriculum and Learning Resources](#)

[Free Translation Tools](#)

[Ministry of Education: English as an Additional Language](#)

[Ministry of Education: Immigration and Newcomers to Saskatchewan](#)

[Ministry of Education: Languages and Cultural Diversity](#)

[Multilingual and English as a Second Language Resources at the Library](#)

[Pre-Kindergarten and Playschool](#)

[Saskatchewan Immigration-Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 information](#)