

## Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative – Number of Approved Childcare Spaces and Facilities Over Time

### DATA DICTIONARY

*Last Updated: May 2025*

This table provides the monthly data on the number of licensed child care spaces and the number of licensed facilities that have been approved to receive fee reductions through the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) (CCFRI). The data is sourced from providers who have chosen to participate in CCFRI. CCFRI offers funding to help providers with the cost of running a child care centre and to reduce parent fees for families. Providers must opt-in to receive the CCFRI. However, to become eligible for CCFRI, providers need to be enrolled in the [Child Care Operating Funding \(CCOF Base Funding\)](#).

The table presents data starting from April 2018, the CCFRI launch date for children aged 5 and under (except Preschool). In September 2023, it was expanded to include Preschool and school-aged child care spaces.

The following care categories are eligible to receive CCFRI fee reductions:

- Group infant/toddler care (Under 36 months) – Eligible since April 2018
- Family infant/toddler care (Under 36 months) - Eligible since April 2018
- Group care for children aged 3 years to kindergarten – Eligible since April 2018
- Family care for children aged 3 years to kindergarten - Eligible since April 2018
- Group care for children in kindergarten - Eligible since April 2018
- Family care for children in kindergarten - Eligible since April 2018
- Group care for Grade 1 to age 12 – Eligible since September 2023
- Family care for Grade 1 to age 12 – Eligible since September 2023
- Licensed Preschool – Eligible since September 2023

Key References: [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#)  
[Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative Provider Map](#)  
[2025-26 Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative Funding Guidelines](#)

To learn more about how to work with this dataset, please refer to the document “*Working with CCFRI data*”.

#### Technical Notes:

- (i) The table includes the number of facilities and the number of spaces from licensed child care providers that have opted-in to the CCFRI. It does not reflect the total number of facilities nor the total number of child care spaces in British Columbia as non-CCFRI providers’ data is not included.
- (ii) The number of facilities and the number of child care spaces in this table have been estimated at the province and school district (SD) levels. By mapping each child care facility’s postal code to the geographic area, facilities were assigned to SDs. However, given that SD 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone) represents all Francophone schools located across the province of British Columbia, it is not possible to assign a child care facility to SD 93 using the postal code, as SD 93 is not defined by a specific geographic boundary like other SDs. Instead, SD 93 child care facilities are included within the SD where the facility is located.

- (iii) A child care facility is different from a child care provider. A facility refers to a physical location where child care services are provided, whereas a provider is an individual or organization responsible for offering these services. A provider may operate multiple facilities, however, each facility functions as a distinct location where child care is offered. This table provides the number of facilities operating under the CCFRI.
- (iv) From April 2018/19 to August 2023/24, only child care spaces for children aged 5 and under (except preschool) were eligible for the CCFRI. In September 2023, the CCFRI expanded to include child care spaces for preschool and school-aged children. Therefore, only for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024, CCFRI monthly average will not match the 2023/24 CCFRI result on [Child Care Public Portal](#), which is the sum of the 5 and under monthly average and the preschool and school age monthly average

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
<b>Year_Month</b>	<p>This variable represents the program's service date in the format 'YYYYMM' (e.g., "202311" for November 2023).</p> <p>The earliest date in the datasets is 'Apr2018' – the launch date of the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.</p>
<b>Month_Year_Label</b>	<p>This variable displays the date in the format 'MonthYYYY' (e.g., 'Nov2023'), offering a more descriptive and easily interpretable alternative to the <b>Year_Month</b> variable column.</p> <p>The earliest date is 'Apr2018' – the launch month of the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.</p>
<b>Fiscal_Year</b>	<p>The fiscal year commences on April 1 and ends on March 31 of the following year.</p> <p>For this dataset, the earliest fiscal year corresponds to '2018/2019'.</p>
<b>Data_Level</b>	<p>An indicator to reflect the grouping of data for which estimates are presented. Use this column to view results at the province or school district level.</p> <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Province' reflects data at the province level.</li> <li>• 'District' reflects data at the school district level. Select from the <b>SD_Number</b> (or <b>SD_Name</b>) column to observe results for a particular school district.</li> </ul>
<b>Region</b>	<p>This reflects the name of the Chapter according to the <a href="#">BC School Superintendents Association</a> (BCSSA). As of 2023-2024, there are six Chapters associated with school districts.</p> <p>The mapping of School Districts to BCSSA Chapters can be found here: <a href="https://bcssa.org/about-us/chapters/">https://bcssa.org/about-us/chapters/</a></p>
<b>SD_Number</b>	<p>This column is the geographic school district number assigned to each facility based on its corresponding postal code/physical location.</p> <p>For the name of the district, see the column <b>SD_Name</b>.</p>

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
	<i>(Note: Missing or NA values indicate results shown at the province level).</i>
<b>SD_Name</b>	<p>The name of the geographic school district.</p> <p>For the number of the district, see the column <b>SD_Number</b>.</p>
<b>Total Approved Spaces</b>	<p>The total number of child care spaces approved for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.</p> <p>This is the summation of the number of child care spaces available for children aged 5 and under, and the number of child care spaces available for school-aged children (kindergarten to age 12) and preschool.</p> <p>Spaces in facilities offering care for children aged 5 and younger (except kindergarten and preschool) have been eligible for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative since April 2018.</p> <p>Spaces in facilities offering preschool (four hours or less) and/or school-aged care (Grade 1 to age 12) have been eligible for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative since September 2023.</p>
<b>Total Approved Facilities</b>	<p>The total number of child care facilities approved for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.</p> <p>This is the summation of the number of facilities offering child care to children aged 5 and under and the number of facilities offering child care to school-aged children (kindergarten to age 12) and preschool who have been approved for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.</p> <p>Facilities offering care for children aged 5 and younger (except kindergarten and preschool) have been eligible for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative since April 2018.</p> <p>Facilities offering preschool (four hours or less) or school-aged care (Grade 1 to age 12) have been eligible for the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative since September 2023.</p>