

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

### DATA DICTIONARY

*Last Updated: August 2024*

This table provides the monthly data on the number of licensed child care spaces and facilities that have been approved to receive the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#) (CCFRI). The data is sourced from providers who have chosen to participate in the program. The program 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 starts in April 2018, the launch date of Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative for children aged 5 and under (except Preschool). In September 2023, the program was expanded to include Preschool and school-aged child care spaces. Data from April 2018 to August 2023 represents providers of all care types for 5 and under.

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 and Family care for children in kindergarten - Eligible since April 2018
- Group and 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](#)  
[2024-25 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 count of facilities and spaces from licensed child care providers that have opted-in to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative. It does not reflect the total count of spaces and facilities in British Columbia as non-CCFRI providers’ data is not included.
- (ii) The number of child care spaces and facilities 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 school districts. 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 specific geographic boundary like other school districts. Instead, SD 93 child care facilities are included within the school district 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 count of facilities operating under the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI).
- (iv) From Apr 2018/19 to Aug 2023/24, only child care spaces for children from birth to Kindergarten were eligible for the CCFRI program. In Sep 2023, the CCFRI program expanded to include child care spaces for preschool and school age children. The 2023/24 CCFRI monthly average will not match the 2023/24 CCFRI result on [Child Care Public Portal](#) which is the sum of the birth to Kindergarten monthly average and the preschool/school age monthly average.

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
<b>Year_Month</b>	<p>This column is a numeric representation of the year and month in the format YYYYMM. For example, "202311" corresponds to November 2023.</p> <p>The variable represents the service date of the program. In the table, earliest month of data available is '201804'.</p>
<b>Month_Year_Label</b>	<p>This variable displays the date in the format 'Month YYYY' (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', i.e., the launch month of the program.</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 data set, 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' that reflects data at the province level.</li> <li>• 'District' that 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>

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Region</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>SD_Number</b></p>	<p>This column is the geographic school district number assigned to each facility based on its corresponding postal code/physical location. For the name of the district, see the column <b>SD_Name</b>.</p> <p><i>(Note: Missing or NA values indicate results shown at the province level).</i></p>
<p><b>SD_Name</b></p>	<p>The name of the geographic school district.</p> <p>For the number of the district, see the column <b>SD_Number</b>.</p>
<p><b>Total Approved Spaces</b></p>	<p>The total count of child care spaces approved for the CCFRI.</p> <p>This is the summation of the count of ‘child care spaces available for children aged 5 and under’, and the count 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 CCFRI since April 2018.</p> <p>Spaces in facilities offering half-day preschool or school-aged care (before and/or after school from Kindergarten to age 12) have been eligible for CCFRI since September 2023.</p>
<p><b>Total Approved Facilities</b></p>	<p>The total count of child care facilities approved for the CCFRI.</p> <p>This is the summation of the count of ‘facilities offering child care to children aged 5 and under’ and the count of ‘facilities offering child care to preschool and school-aged children’ who have been approved for the CCFRI.</p> <p>Facilities offering care for children aged 5 and younger (except Kindergarten and preschool) have been eligible for CCFRI since April 2018.</p> <p>Facilities offering half-day preschool or school-aged care (before and/or after school from Kindergarten to age 12) have been eligible for CCFRI since September 2023.</p>