

Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE) – Number of Early Childhood Educators and Facilities Over Time

DATA DICTIONARY

Last Updated: August 2024

This table provides the monthly data on the number of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) who are receiving the Wage Enhancement. It also includes the number of child care facilities that are participating in the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE) program with eligible ECEs who are receiving the Wage Enhancement.

Facilities must be owned by Organizations that are enrolled in either the [Child Care Operating Funding \(CCOF\)](#) program and participating the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative \(CCFRI\)](#), or [\\$10 a Day ChildCareBC](#) to be eligible for ECE-WE.¹ Only Early Childhood Educators employed or self-employed in a facility that is either participating in CCOF or operating as a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre and has been approved to opt in both the CCFRI and ECE-WE programs are eligible to receive the ECE-WE.

Background: Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) are certified educators who are qualified to work with young children from birth to age 5 in a variety of settings, including licensed child care programs. They must meet specific legislative requirements and occupational competencies to maintain their certification in British Columbia.²

Wage Enhancement: The Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE) program was introduced as part of B.C.'s [Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#) in 2019. Participation in the ECE-WE is optional, and child care providers can apply at any time.

To learn more about how to work with this dataset, please refer to the document "[Working with the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement data.docx](#)".

Important References: [Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement Program](#)
[ECE-WE Funding Guidelines: 2024-2025](#)
[Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative](#)

Technical Notes:

- (i) The number of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in this table includes those receiving Wage Enhancement. There are ECEs who may be employed in a facility not enrolled in [Child Care Operating Funding \(CCOF\)](#) or [\\$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre](#), or a facility that has not been approved for the [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative \(CCFRI\)](#). Hence, the data in this table does not reflect the total count of Early Childhood Educators in British Columbia.

¹ Organization refers to the parent institution that provides various child care services or programs. They may operate through a single facility in one location, or multiple facilities delivering licensed child care in a variety of settings. A facility, on the other hand, specifically refers to a single physical location or building where the child care services are provided. Each facility's eligibility for ECE-WE is assessed separately and not determined by the facility's licence.

² For information on the specific legal requirements and occupational competencies required to maintain an ECE Certificate, please refer to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/training-and-professional-development/become-an-early-childhood-educator/ece-profession>

- (ii) Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) or Responsible Adults are not eligible to receive the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE).
- (iii) Wage Enhancement data on the count of Early Childhood Educators and facilities enrolled in \$10 a Day ChildCareBC is available from April 2023 only. Therefore, data from September 2018 to March 2023 reflects CCOF facilities only that have opted in to participate in the Wage Enhancement.
- (i) The number of Early Childhood Educators and participating facilities receiving the Wage Enhancement 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.

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
Year_Month	<p>This variable 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 '201809'.</p>
Month_Year_Label	<p>This variable displays the date in the format 'Month YYYY' (e.g., 'Nov2023'), offering a more descriptive and easily interpretable alternative to the Year_Month variable column.</p> <p>The earliest date available for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and eligible facilities receiving Wage Enhancement is 'Sep2018'.</p>
Fiscal_Year	<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>
Data_Level	<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"> • 'Province' that reflects data at the province level. • 'District' that reflects data at the school district level. Select from the SD_Number (or SD_Name) column to observe results for a particular school district.

VARIABLE NAME	VARIABLE DESCRIPTION
Region	<p>This reflects the name of the Chapter according to BC School Superintendents Association (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: https://bcssa.org/about-us/chapters/</p>
SD_Number	<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 SD_Name.</p> <p><i>(Note: Missing or NA values indicate results shown at the province level).</i></p>
SD_Name	<p>The name of the geographic school district.</p> <p>For the number of the district, see the column SD_Number.</p>
Early Childhood Educators	<p>This is the number of eligible ECEs receiving the Wage Enhancement.</p> <p>When the count of ECEs is fewer than 10, the value is “masked” (suppressed) to protect privacy, and the notation ‘Msk’ is displayed.</p> <p>Note: The count in this column does not reflect the total count of ECEs in British Columbia (<i>see Technical Notes above</i>).</p>
Number of Facilities	<p>This column represents the count of facilities participating in the ECE-WE and eligible ECEs are receiving the Wage Enhancement.</p> <p>For protecting the privacy of ECEs, if the count of facilities is less than 10, the value is “masked” (suppressed), and the notation ‘Msk’ is displayed.</p>