



2026-27 School Playground Equipment Grant Program Guidelines

Introduction

The School Playground Equipment Grant Program (SPEG) supports the creation of safe playgrounds on school property throughout Saskatchewan. Across the province, school community councils and parent groups are committed to building playgrounds at local schools. This grant helps ensure playground projects can be completed sooner and with less financial strain on communities, helping to increase the number of outdoor play spaces in the province. It reflects the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to providing every child with a place to play and recognizes the essential role that recreational spaces provide in keeping Saskatchewan communities vibrant, active, and growing.

Through this program, eligible school playground projects can receive up to \$50,000 in matching funds, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications will be accepted from September 16, 2026, to January 29, 2027.

Eligibility

The SPEG program is open to school councils, community groups and staff affiliated with publicly funded schools, school divisions, and First Nation schools in Saskatchewan. Publicly funded schools include: public, separate, Francophone, Independent (including alternative independent, associate, historical, qualified independent and certified independent) and First Nations.

Please note:

- Funding applies only to the development or refurbishment of play structures located on school operated property that meet the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment (Z614:20).
- Play structures must be open and available to the community.
- Registered Independent Schools, home-based education, daycares, and municipalities, as well as First Nation communities not responsible for a school playground project, are not eligible to apply.

Eligible expenses must be incurred between **April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2028**. Expenses incurred outside of this date range may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Receipts or other supporting documents must be kept and provided upon request for audit purposes.

Available Assistance

Groups may apply for up to \$50,000 in matching funds, with a limit of one application per school per year.



Applicants are encouraged to connect with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), to review eligibility, prior to submitting an application. Applications must include all required components before they will enter the queue for adjudication.

Ineligible Expenditures

The following items are considered ineligible:

- Indoor playgrounds or play areas with exclusive access or not publicly accessible
- Splash pads or water parks
- Parking lots or road construction
- Fencing
- Washrooms or change rooms
- Maintenance equipment - (e.g. lawnmowers, snow blowers, or tools for facility upkeep)
- Outdoor classrooms or dedicated learning spaces
- Natural play features (e.g. logs, boulders, other natural items)
- Courts, outdoor rinks/arenas, skateparks, pump tracks
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Fundraising costs, administration fees or unrelated capital projects
- Public seating such as benches, bleachers, or amphitheaters
- Irrigation or water features
- Gazebos or stand-alone shade structures
- Blueprints, architectural planning or design costs
- Salaries or wages not directly related to installation or construction costs
- Other expenses that may be deemed inappropriate

Application Process

Applications will be accepted online **until January 29, 2027, on a first-come, first-served basis**. Only one application per school per year will be accepted.

Please submit your grant application and supporting documentation through the SPRA Online Grant Platform. [Click here](#) to access the SPRA Online Grant Platform.

Note: New users to the Online Grant Platform will need to create a username and password to access any of the SPRA's Grants. Existing or previous users can simply enter their username and password to access the site. If log-in information has been lost, or if further information or clarification is needed for this grant, please contact SPRA.

SPRA will adjudicate all submissions to confirm they meet the eligibility requirements, using established assessment criteria. All funding decisions are final and not subject to appeal.



Applicants will be notified of the outcome approximately four weeks after submitting their application. If approved, 90% of the grant amount will be disbursed within approximately 10 weeks after the application is submitted. The remaining 10% will be issued upon receipt and approval of the Follow-up Report. In exceptional circumstances, full payment may be provided upfront to better support groups in completing their school playground projects.

Application Requirements

The following information must be included in the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Approval of applications will be based on all the areas listed below:

1. Contact Information

The name of the school, organization responsible for the application, contact person overseeing the application, telephone number, email address and school mailing address.

2. Confirmation of Authorization

Letter(s) of support from the principal, school or school division, and local partners.

3. Proposal

The proposal should clearly outline the project plan, including:

- a. A detailed development plan with timelines. This should recognize equipment is installed either by qualified installers or under the supervision of qualified installers. The plan must demonstrate that installation will meet the standards required by the equipment vendor to maintain warranties and avoid any liability issues.
 - i. Saskatchewan suppliers/distributors are encouraged. A list of suppliers can be found on the program webpage.
 - ii. Large-scale, phased projects may be considered over multiple years. Applicants must clearly outline the full scope in their initial application. Each phase must be applied for separately, and approval of one phase does not guarantee funding for future phases.
- b. A basic site layout and map showing the proposed playground location in relation to the school.
- c. Image of the proposed playground equipment.
- d. Confirmation from the school division or a certified playground installer that the equipment meets all applicable requirements of the most current CSA Standard (Z614:20) for Children's Playspaces and Equipment.
- e. Statement that the school or school division will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance, safety inspections, and liability, signed by a school administrator.
- f. An impact statement explaining how the funding will benefit both the school and the wider community.
- g. Number of students enrolled at the time of application who will benefit from the project.



4. Budget

The budget must include:

- a. Financial statements confirming that matching funds have been secured in an account at the time of application.
- b. A detailed list of projected revenues and expenses.
 - i. Itemized costs for eligible expenses allocated to grant funding.
 - ii. Itemized costs covered by applicant's matched and additional funding.
 - iii. Volunteer contributions will be calculated at \$27/hour.
- c. If applicable, a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP):
 - i. For fixed-cost RFPs: the RFP alone is sufficient.
 - ii. For variable-cost RFPs: include the successful bid.

The application must have a balanced budget.

Funding Obligations

The project must be completed within one year from the project approval date.

All playgrounds must be designed and constructed with public safety in mind and comply with current public health and safety guidelines during both installation and use.

Recipients are to acknowledge the SPEG, SPRA and the Government of Saskatchewan support for the project. Recognition can be provided in a variety of ways including for example, newsletters, donor recognition walls, annual reports, media releases, social media, events and speaking engagements. Please contact the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport at comms@gov.sk.ca for recognition support such as a logo or quotes.

Funds provided through SPEG must be used solely for the purpose outlined in the approved application. Funds are **not transferable**. Any significant changes to the use of funds must receive prior written approval from SPRA. Any unspent or misused funds must be returned to SPRA.

Failure to meet these funding obligations may result in the withholding of the final payment, a requirement to return the first installment from the grant and could impact the organization's eligibility for future funding opportunities.



Follow-up Requirements

Successful applicants will submit a Follow-up Report within 45 days of the school playground completion or before the follow-up deadline, whichever comes first. Reports will be assigned on SPRA's Online Grant platform.

The Follow-up Report must include all activities of the project and indicate how it met the aims of the SPEG. Examples of how support from the SPEG, SPRA and the Government of Saskatchewan was acknowledged can also be provided in the report. Proof that the school playground meets the safety standard and certification requirements is required with the follow-up report.

SPRA encourages recipients to share photos, videos, and written testimonials that highlight the project's impact. All media must be accompanied by signed release forms for individuals featured. If your organization does not have its own release form, SPRA's Photo Release Form may be used and submitted along with the report. [Click here to access SPRA's Photo Release Form.](#)

SPRA reserves the right to request a refund of the grant amount from members that do not submit the required Follow-up Report information.

Privacy

The protection of information is important to SPRA. We, as an organization, are committed to protecting the privacy of our members, volunteers, partners and employees. Our commitment is to maintain the confidentiality of your information and preserve your right to privacy. SPRA will collect, use and disclose funding information to adjudicate this grant. SPRA reserves the right to promote and advertise the grant recipients and programs.

We welcome your feedback on this and on other SPRA programs and services.