



## **School Playground Equipment Grant 2025/2026**

### **Introduction**

The School Playground Equipment Grant (SPEG) supports the creation of safe, accessible playgrounds on school property throughout Saskatchewan. Across the province, school community councils (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. 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.

This grant will support the fundraising efforts of local councils and parent groups, helping to increase the number of outdoor play spaces accessible across the province.

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

**Applications will be accepted until February 25, 2026.**

### **Eligibility**

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

### **Please note:**

- Funding applies only to the development or refurbishment of traditional play structures located on school property that meet the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard for Children's Playspaces and Equipment (Z614-20).
- Play structures must be accessible to the community at all times.
- 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, 2025, and March 31, 2027**. 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. Please note that schools that reapply in future granting periods will only be considered after all new applicants have been evaluated during that intake.



Applicants are encouraged to connect with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), to review eligibility, prior to submitting an application.

### **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 - (eg. 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 February 25, 2026, 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. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to a SPRA representative to ensure complete documentation has been provided. 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 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. Saskatchewan suppliers/distributors are encouraged. A list of suppliers can be found on the program webpage. The plan must demonstrate that installation will meet the standards required by the equipment vendor to maintain warranties and avoid any liability issues.
  - i. 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 or map showing the proposed playground location.
- c. Confirmation from the school division or a certified playground installer that the equipment meets all applicable code requirements, including the most current CSA Standard (Z614-20) for Children's Playspaces and Equipment.
- d. Proof that the school or school division will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance, safety inspections, and liability.
- e. An impact statement explaining how the funding will benefit both the school and the wider community.
- f. Number of students who will benefit from the project.



#### 4. Budget

The budget must include:

- a. A detailed list of projected revenues and expenses.
  - i. Volunteer contributions will be calculated at \$27/hour.
- b. Financial statements confirming that matching funds have been secured.
- 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 required to acknowledge the Program, SPRA and the Government of Saskatchewan funding support for the project. Signage may be provided separately and will not be an expense incurred by recipients.

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 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 program. Proof that the playground meets the code requirements of the most current CSA Standard (Z614-20) for Children's Playspaces and Equipment is also 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.