



# 2024-2025 Report Card



Saskatoon Public  
Schools Foundation



Saskatoon Public  
Schools Foundation

# Volunteer Board Chair and CEO Message

*SPSF operates on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries in the past and the imprints we'll make together going forward. We give thanks to this traditional land.*

As we reflect on the past year, we're incredibly proud to mark the completion of the fourth year of Early Learning Equal Start (ELES)—a milestone made possible by the unwavering generosity of our donors and the dedication of our community. As we enter the fifth and final year of this initiative, our focus is on building lasting impact. From its start in a pilot classroom at

Mayfair School, ELES has expanded across the city, now supporting Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten in 29 classrooms, Page Turners literacy tutoring, and Camp Brain Power. ELES equips students with the skills and confidence they need to thrive. It's no longer just a program; it's a model for what's possible when we believe in every child's potential.

Thanks to ELES programming, dedicated teachers, and ongoing community investment, student outcomes have been transformed—lifting literacy rates in some schools from 60–70% to more than 80%

## SPSF Volunteer Board of Directors



**Pictured L-R:** Brooke Klassen, Rylund Hunter (Chair), Shane Skjerven, Zeba Ahmad, Kim Stranden, Marla Adams, Dylan Smith, Charlene Scrimshaw, Brennen Mills, Barry MacDougall, Christine Marie, Wayne Brownlee | **Missing:** Allison McMillan, Fatima Coovadia  
**Outgoing Board Members:** Colleen MacPherson, Michael Linklater, Michael Pidwerbeski, Stephanie Yong  
**Advisory Members:** Colleen Cameron, Daniel Burke, Janet Uchacz-Hart, Jesse Radu, Matt Coutts

of students now meeting expected literacy benchmarks. The progress is real and it's only the beginning.

In 2024, we partnered with the University of Toronto to formally evaluate our Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten outcomes. The results confirmed what we've long advocated: students in Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten consistently outperform their peers in half-day or alternating day models.

The data is undeniable: when we invest in early learning, we change the trajectory of a child's life. Backed by this research, we continue to advocate for Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten in Saskatoon and across the province, confident that our efforts are driving meaningful change for students.

Every child deserves equitable access to high-quality early education, removing barriers to opportunity, and opening the door to a lifetime of learning and success. Saskatchewan remains one of only two provinces in Canada without government funded Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten. As we move forward, we are committed to using this powerful data to continue to advocate for system-wide change.

## Looking Ahead

Our vision is bold but clear: every child in Saskatchewan will have the opportunity to reach their full potential through access to quality early education. The journey of ELES over the past four years shows what's possible when community, generosity, and purpose align. With the continued generosity of our supporters, we will continue to carry this work forward—driven by data, inspired by students, and grounded

in the belief that education is the most powerful tool we have to shape a better future.

**Rylund Hunter**, *Volunteer Board Chair*  
**Zeba Ahmad**, *CEO*

## SPSF Team



**Pictured L-R:** Debra Lishchynsky, Zeba Ahmad, Shauna Morrison, Krysta Shacklock

## SPSF Pillars



LITERACY



WELLNESS



INNOVATION

# All In for Literacy Day

Presented by **GRAHAM**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

All In for Literacy Day, presented by Graham, celebrates education and the joy of learning. Together with local businesses and community partners, we transform the block outside the Saskatoon Public Schools Division building into a vibrant activity hub. More than 500 elementary students gather downtown for a fun, hands-on “street-fair” experience filled with activities and performances that inspire literacy, wellness, innovation, and reconciliation.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, All In For Literacy Day, presented by Graham, is free for participating students, including bussing, entertainment, snacks, and take-home items.

Early childhood literacy is the foundation for preventing poverty, improving health, and building strong economies. Help us build a \$5 Million All In Endowment to continue the important work of the ELES campaign.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

DAKOTA DUNES  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

**Westburne**

**sandbox**  
mutual insurance

**wcb** Saskatchewan  
Workers' Compensation  
Board



# EARLY LEARNING EQUAL START

2024–2025

**FULL-DAY, EVERY DAY**  
Kindergarten in **25** schools

FULLY FUNDED BY



Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation

## Funds 3 Key Initiatives:

- Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten
- Page Turners (Page 10)
- Camp Brain Power (Page 10)

## Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten SPS schools:

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Brevoort Park      | • Lawson Heights         |
| • Brownell           | • Lester B. Pearson (x2) |
| • Buena Vista        | • Mayfair                |
| • Caroline Robins    | • North Park Wilson      |
| • Caswell            | • Roland Michener        |
| • College Park       | • Sutherland (x2)        |
| • Dundonald          | • Vincent Massey         |
| • Fairhaven (x2)     | • Wâhkôhtowin            |
| • Forest Grove       | • Westmount              |
| • Holliston          | • Wildwood               |
| • Howard Coad        | • W.P. Bate (x2)         |
| • James L. Alexander |                          |
| • John Lake          |                          |
| • King George        |                          |



**The Kindergarteners of  
2024/25 are the class of 2037.**

The path to success begins by ensuring students reach grade-level literacy by Grade 3.

# EVERY DAY MATTERS

## An Evaluation of the Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten in Saskatchewan (2019–2024)

Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation launched Early Learning Equal Start in 2019 to ensure our youngest learners are ready to thrive as they begin their school journey. What began as a pilot program in one school has expanded to 29 classrooms in 25 Saskatoon Public Schools.

To evaluate the outcomes of this initiative, SPSF partnered with the University of Toronto to conduct an independent, multi-year study. Access to consistent, every day, high quality kindergarten is one of the strongest predictors of high school graduation.

*Access to consistent, every day, high quality kindergarten is one of the strongest predictors of high school graduation.*

This study compared children in Saskatoon Public Schools who attended full-day, every day kindergarten to their peers in half-day every day or full-day alternating day kindergarten programs from 2019-2024. This examination provides the most rigorous evidence to date on the benefits of consistency in early learning. **The following outcomes were determined based on the data collected.**

### OUTCOME 1 | STRONGER SCHOOL READINESS

Children who develop strong reading skills early are more likely to succeed throughout their schooling and subsequent high school graduation.

*Full-day, every day kindergarten raises Tier 1 (on track) placement by about 19 percent and reduces Tier 2 (needs targeted support) by about 50 percent compared with half-day kindergarten.*

### OUTCOME 2 | DAILY CONSISTENCY MATTERS

Daily attendance matters more than simply “more hours per day.”

*Full-day, every day kindergarten consistently outperforms alternating-day and half-day programs; most data show the two full-day models are not equivalent.*

### OUTCOME 3 | LITERACY GAINS ACROSS MEASURES

Early literacy improves under full-day, every day kindergarten.

*Full-day, every day kindergarten significantly boosts early literacy outcomes – increasing students “meeting benchmark” by 15–27% and cutting those “at risk” by up to 50%. Alternating-day programs show smaller or inconsistent gains.*

### OUTCOME 4 | GREATER EQUITY & INCLUSION

Benefits extend across groups, with notable gains where needs are high.

*Full-day, every day kindergarten raises Tier 1 (on-track) rates for all students, with especially strong gains for Indigenous and immigrant children, though smaller sample sizes limit precision.*





## FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

The findings from this evaluation provide a clear path forward:

### 1. POLICY

We must act. Make full-day, every day kindergarten a cornerstone of early learning strategy in Saskatchewan.

### 2. PRACTICE

Continue to refine and expand evidence-based early learning programming.

### 3. PARTNERSHIP

Encourage and support collaboration between Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, Saskatoon Public Schools, and government to scale what works.

### 4. INVESTMENT

Government can, as most of the country has, in ensuring full-day, every day kindergarten is available to Saskatchewan families. Donors and partners can continue investing in SPSF to lead innovation for kids. Communities can advocate for equity and literacy in every circle.

*Saskatchewan students rank among the lowest in Canada for reading comprehension compared to other provinces (PISA, 2022)*

“Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten is a gift of time – time to grow, to wonder, to connect. Research shows that children who consistently engage in rich, full-day learning experiences demonstrate stronger early literacy, numeracy and self-regulation skills, laying a powerful foundation needed to thrive in school and beyond. The overall positive impact that I have witnessed over the past four years is hard for me to put into words.

By the end of the year, they’re not only academically prepared for Grade 1, but also confident, curious, and excited to keep learning. Early intervention matters, and this program has done it right.”

**Nicole Finlayson, Kindergarten Teacher,  
Sutherland School**



# SPSF Supports 100% of Saskatoon Public Schools

Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation is proud to make a meaningful difference in every elementary and secondary school across the Saskatoon Public Schools Division.

Through programs like Early Learning Equal Start, Canpotex Cheer Crates, Power Up Projects, and nutrition support, SPSF reaches every corner of the division, ensuring students have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Together with our community, we're helping students learn, grow, and reach their full potential because every child deserves the chance to succeed.



Saskatoon Public Elementary Schools



Saskatoon Public Elementary Schools with Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten



Saskatoon Public Secondary Schools



10  
Secondary  
Schools



48  
Elementary  
Schools

SPSF extends a huge **thank-you** to Saskatoon Public Schools for their ongoing support and partnership.



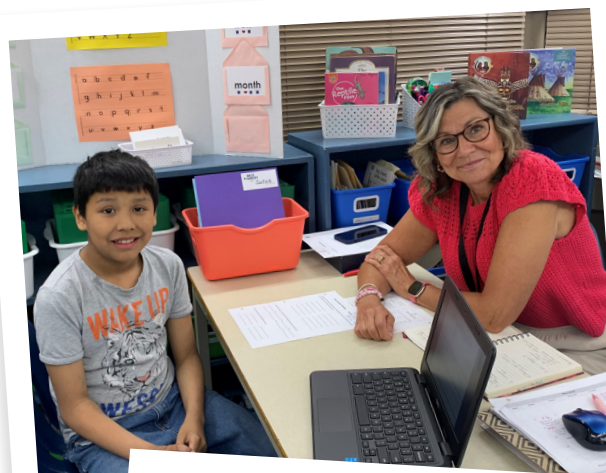
# PAGE TURNERS

In 2024–25, SPSF proudly offered Page Turners to every Saskatoon Public Elementary School, reaching **558 students**.

Launched in 2013 to address literacy and equity, the program pairs struggling readers in Grades 2 and 3 with retired teachers for 24 hours of personalized, one-on-one instruction over seven weeks.

The results speak for themselves: tutored students gained on average more than a year's growth in reading proficiency, building both skills and confidence along the way.

Page Turners is proudly supported in part by the All In Endowment.



Camp Brain Power welcomed over **428 Grade 1–3 students** for a week of fun-filled, hands-on learning that sparks curiosity through literacy, creativity, and active play.

Camp Brain Power is free for all students, with daily lunch and snacks provided through the Summer Snack Program—ensuring every child can fully experience the camp and grow with confidence.

From August 11–15, 2025, Camp Brain Power immersed students in engaging lessons and interactive games, preparing them to return to school energized, motivated, and with renewed enthusiasm.



**BHP**



**TD READY  
COMMITMENT**

**DAKOTA DUNES  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

**SPSF thanks BHP and TD Ready Commitment for their multi-year contributions to Camp Brain Power.**

# Spring for our students

SPSF hosted the 5th annual Spring for our Students online auction to raise funds for Power Up Projects. This event offers a unique opportunity to feature auction packages that celebrate the season, support student initiatives, and showcase local businesses.

Spring for our Students  
brought to you by:



SPSF Champions:

Dakota Dunes Casino Development Corporation, Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture

Friends of SPSF:

Connect Energy, City Park Vet, Henderson Consulting, Centaur Products

\$41,270  
RAISED &  
AWARDED!



## POWERUP PROJECTS

Each year SPSF provides grants to classrooms and schools for innovative and supplemental projects that provide unique learning opportunities for students.

10 innovative projects  
selected in 2024-25

### Power Up Projects:

- ✓ \$1,800 - Colette Bourgonje Adapted Book Library
- ✓ \$2,700 - Mount Royal Project Flourish
- ✓ \$2,700 - Centennial Bioplastic Recycling System
- ✓ \$4,070 - Walter Murray Courtyard Reformation
- ✓ \$5,000 - Bedford Road Project Get Outside (Project GO)
- ✓ \$5,000 - Howard Coad Outdoor Learning & Creativity Space
- ✓ \$5,000 - John Dolan Universally Accessible Library
- ✓ \$5,000 - Mayfair Indigenous Teachings
- ✓ \$5,000 - Westmount Belonging Blasts
- ✓ \$5,000 - Westmount Maachi Kashkihtow



Twice a year, SPSF assembles and delivers Canpotex Cheer Crates, supporting more than 1,500 students and their families. Made possible by the generosity of corporate and individual donors, teachers, and volunteers, each crate is valued at over \$100 and includes nutritious food, books, hygiene items, warm clothing, and fun activities for the whole family—ensuring every child feels supported during school breaks.

**Thanks** to the Sargeant Hugh Cairns VC Armoury for generously providing their space and staff support for assembling Canpotex Cheer Crates, and to over 100 volunteers

## Nutritional Support

Nutrien generously contributed \$150,000 to the Nutrien Food4Thought program which supported 13 elementary and four secondary schools.



SPSF, in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools, CHEP, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, received a \$2.9 million multi-year grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada in 2023. Now in its third year, the Good Food for Learning program operates in four schools and aims to expand to 10 schools by 2028.



**Thank you to Canpotex for their multi-year commitment!**

from 7Shifts, Wright Construction, Canpotex, and individuals for their incredible dedication.

### Additional Donors:

- ✓ City of Saskatoon
- ✓ Enterprise
- ✓ Federated Co-operatives
- ✓ Lens Hauling
- ✓ Mardyck Farms Ltd.
- ✓ Our Lady of the Prairies Foundation
- ✓ Saskatchewan Egg Producers
- ✓ Saskatoon Fire & Flood
- ✓ Saskatoon Co-op
- ✓ Saskatchewan Health Authority
- ✓ Scholastic Canada
- ✓ Suer & Pollon Mechanical
- ✓ Westburne
- ✓ United Way of Saskatoon and Area



**Over 1,000,000 breakfasts, lunches, and snacks were served in 2024-25 to approximately 5,000 students.**

**Additional Supporter:**



# LIGHTLY GRILLED

PRESENTED BY **GRAHAM**



**FIRESIDE GUEST**  
Wayne Brownlee



**FIRESIDE GUEST**  
Jerry Grandey



**EAT. DRINK. LAUGH.**  
**SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS.**

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**RARE** 🔥🔥🔥  
Graham

**MEDIUM RARE** 🔥🔥  
Cameco, EY, Saskatoon Fire & Flood

**MEDIUM WELL** 🔥🔥  
Dakota Dunes Casino Development Corporation,  
Micro Oil Inc., NexGen Energy, WCPD  
Foundation, Westcap Management Ltd.

**WELL DONE** 🔥  
Catterall & Wright, DCG Philanthropic Services,  
Deloitte, Des Nedhe Group, North Ridge  
Developments, Sasktel, SIGA, Saskatchewan  
Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Workers  
Compensation Board, Thorpe Industries

**LIGHTLY GRILLED COMMITTEE:** Arden Wipf, Brennen Mills, Don Gorsalitz, Dylan Smith, Jamie Miley, Jeremy Veszi, Jerry Grandey, Robin Koroluk, Stella Spanos, Todd Peterson, Véronique Loewen, Wayne Brownlee, Crystal Macleod (RSVP Event Design), Lauren Rennie (RSVP Event Design), Shauna Morrison (Staff), and Zeba Ahmad (Staff).

SPSF's signature event debuted a new format, shifting from playful roasts to an engaging fireside chat with Wayne Brownlee and Jerry Grandey—titans of Saskatchewan's potash and uranium industries. Over 400 guests filled Marion G. Graham gymnasium as Wayne and Jerry shared never-before-heard stories and offered unique insights into the experiences that shaped their success.

**A NEW RECORD**  
**\$258,233 RAISED!**

# Honour Roll

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose continued support helps build brighter futures for students across Saskatoon Public Schools.

- ✓ Alice Kuipers and Yann Martel
- ✓ Amrize
- ✓ Asit and Ila Sarkar
- ✓ Athabasca Basin Development
- ✓ Barr Engineering Co.
- ✓ Barry MacDougall
- ✓ Bay State Milling Company
- ✓ Beth Bilson
- ✓ Brooke Klassen
- ✓ Brownlee Family Foundation
- ✓ Carson Heagy
- ✓ Charlene Scrimshaw
- ✓ Cheryl Sutherland
- ✓ Christine Marie
- ✓ Colleen and Walter Mah
- ✓ Cora Weenk and James Yausie
- ✓ Dandan Xiang and Bai Yuguang
- ✓ Diane Knight
- ✓ Dylan Smith
- ✓ Elizabeth Clelland
- ✓ Gordon and Maureen Haddock
- ✓ Greg and Olivia Yuel
- ✓ Gregory and Rhonda Keller
- ✓ Jan Gelech
- ✓ Jerry and Tina Grandey
- ✓ Joe and Debbie Vidal
- ✓ John and Sheila Hyshka
- ✓ Lyle and Carol Minogue
- ✓ Marla and Seth Adams
- ✓ North Prairie Developments
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- ✓ Patrick Boot and Catherine Weenk
- ✓ Pattison Billboards
- ✓ Peter Kilty
- ✓ Peter Martin
- ✓ Rawlco
- ✓ Rylund Hunter
- ✓ Saad Rehman and Hekmat Alphin
- ✓ Saskatoon Community Foundation
- ✓ Saskatoon Fire & Flood Ltd.
- ✓ Shane Skjerven
- ✓ Shannon and Ryan Rogal
- ✓ Shayne and Jessica Dueck
- ✓ Stephanie Hughes
- ✓ Suer and Pollon Mechanical
- ✓ Terry Johnson and Allison Stromberg
- ✓ Tom and Merne Wilson
- ✓ Tony and Mark Banks Family Fund
- ✓ Wayne Brownlee
- ✓ Wendy Chyzowski
- ✓ Westburne
- ✓ Zeba Ahmad

## Donations in Memory:

- ✓ Angela Gillis
- ✓ Bradley Zelinsky
- ✓ Carol Dean
- ✓ David Beaubier
- ✓ Hertha Tucker
- ✓ Linda Inman
- ✓ Mary Vinish

## Donations in Honour:

- ✓ David Beaubier
- ✓ Hertha Tucker
- ✓ Jeff and Laurel Lindgren
- ✓ Leah, Cole, and Reid Inman
- ✓ Wayne and Ina Lou Brownlee

## Community Sponsored Projects:

- ✓ Bedford Road Alumni Fund
- ✓ Brunskill iPad Fundraiser
- ✓ CL Hayden Literacy and Arts Trust
- ✓ Hope Campaign
- ✓ Hugo Alvarado Community Art Project
- ✓ Mark Family Scholarship
- ✓ Pickles New Hoops
- ✓ SPS Playground Projects

# SPSF in the Community

## 2025 King Charles III Coronation Medal

Zeba Ahmad, CEO, SPSF, and Board Members, Wayne Brownlee and Fatima Coovadia, were awarded this prestigious distinction.



**Pictured L-R:** Wayne Brownlee, Candace Laing, President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce; and Zeba Ahmad.

## 2024 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Celebrating Board Member Christine Marie, Founder & CEO, Awasis Boutique, on receiving the Business & Entrepreneurship Award.



**Pictured L-R:** Christine Marie and Zeba Ahmad.

## 2024 National Philanthropy Day

Proudly recognizing outgoing Board Members Stephanie Yong and Michael Linklater, recipients of the Honoured Supporter Award for National Philanthropy Day.



**Pictured L-R:** Michael Linklater, Co-Founder, Sohkiwin Solutions; Zeba Ahmad, and Stephanie Yong, Co-Founder, Sohkiwin Solutions.

## 2025 Canpotex Cheer Crates

Our team rolled up their sleeves to help assemble Canpotex Cheer Crates in support of SPS students and families.



**Pictured L-R:** Krysta Shacklock, Programs and Grants Manager, SPSF; Zeba Ahmad, and Barry MacDougall, Board Member, SPSF.

# WE'RE GOING ALL IN!

We're committed to a Saskatchewan where all students have the support they need to reach their full potential.



## WAYS TO DONATE

Donate online at [SPSFoundation.ca](https://SPSFoundation.ca)

SPSF also accepts cheques, EFTs, credit cards and securities including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

Cheques payable to:

Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation  
310 21st Street E. Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M7  
[info@spsfoundation.ca](mailto:info@spsfoundation.ca) | (306) 683-8550



Donate Today!



Saskatoon Public  
Schools Foundation

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