

PRESENTS

CANADIAN COMPANION TO UNICEF REPORT CARD 15

THE EQUALIZER

How Education Creates Fairness for Children in Canada



8 important things about education in Canada

www.unicef.ca/irc15

Did you know Canada's education system is one of the highest ranked among rich countries? This means that a high number of students do well in school.

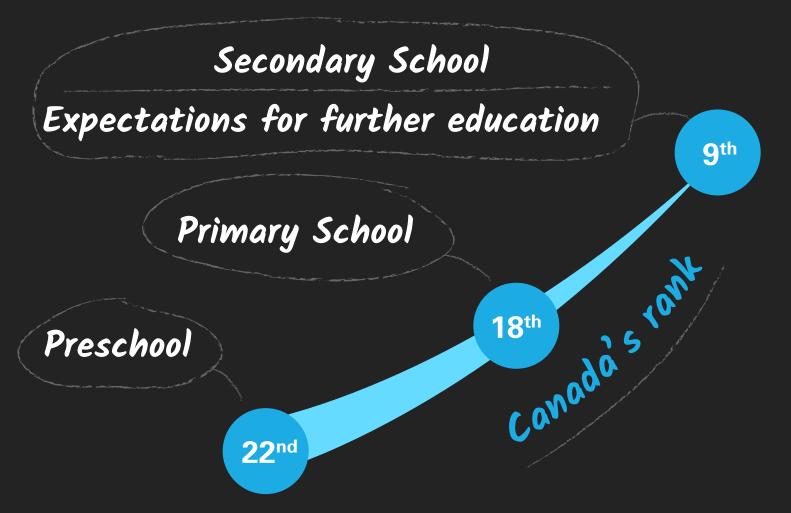
Canada ranks



out of 38 countries in education equality



Compared to other countries, Canada's education system becomes more equal the further children progress through school.





In spite of Canada's ranking, education is not an equalizer for all children across Canada.

There is a reading gap that widens in favour of girls as children progress through school

Many First Nations children, children with disabilities, racialized children and children in care are left behind

Migrant children do just as well in reading achievement in secondary school as Canadian-born children



Canada has a relatively high level of equality in education compared to other countries because in Canada, if you come from a rich family, it doesn't have as much of an influence on your education, and there is less difference in achievement levels between schools.

Canada's federal,
provincial and territorial
governments invest in
education

Public education systems distribute quality teaching and resources across schools



Public schools have a range of inclusive policies and programs



Students are not selectively admitted into schools as often as in other countries



Countries like Canada with greater educational equality also have higher levels of achievement – there is no tradeoff between fairness and greatness.





Education in Canada can't remain equal if growing threats to education are ignored.

Income Inequality

School Stratification

(How students are pooled between and in schools)

Shadow Education

(Private investment gap in children's education)

Growing threats to educational equality



If Canada wants to stay among the top ranked countries in education, there are things we need to continue to work on to improve education for all children in Canada.

- Reduce
 income inequality
- Guarantee

 access to high
 quality Early
 Childhood
 Education
- the gaps between children in schools

🔛 Establish

A reconciliation framework to close gaps for Indigenous children

🔀 Expand

learning for the future - the new basics

Make

learning safer and healthier

Canada's education strategy can be – and should be – a blueprint for improving other areas of child and youth well being.



If Canada brought to other aspects of child and youth well-being the shared commitment we have to good education, many more children would be healthy, free of violence, and able to reach their full potential

Key areas to improve:



Health

Canada 29th



Poverty

Canada 32nd



Nutrition

Canada 37th



Safety

Canada 37th



See UNICEF Report Card 14 for more on Canada's rankings
Check out UNICEF Report Card 15 at unicef.ca/irc15