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Maps and key facts on schooling in English-language schools in Quebec, 2021

by Étienne Lemyre

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Maps and key facts on schooling in English-language schools in Quebec, 2021

by Étienne Lemyre

In 2021, for the very first time in a census, information was collected on instruction in the minority official language at the primary and secondary levels (i.e., English in Quebec and French in Canada outside Quebec). According to the 2021 Census results, 230,075 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in Quebec, 76% of whom were schooled or had been schooled at an English-language primary or secondary school in Canada.¹

The number of children eligible for instruction in English and the proportion who were attending or had attended an English-language school varied across regions² in Quebec and from one place to another within the same region. Whether or not eligible children attended an English-language school reflected parents' choices about schools, which may have been related to factors beyond the choice of language of instruction, such as the proximity of schools³ and the quality of programs.⁴

This booklet comprises a series of maps of the regions of Quebec, with key facts on the municipalities in question. It aims to highlight the municipalities⁵ where eligible school-aged children were living and the respective proportions of eligible children who were attending or had attended an English-language school. These maps will inform parents, school authorities and other decision makers in education about the municipalities where instruction in the minority official language could be developed, expanded or made more accessible.

The 2021 Census results are but one component of the [data ecosystem](#) on instruction in the minority official language and on children eligible for instruction in that language. To learn more about the concepts used in this booklet, see the "[Concepts and definitions](#)" box and the [Instruction in the Minority Official Language Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2021](#).

1. Statistics Canada, 2022, "[897,000 children are eligible for instruction in the minority official language in Canada](#)," *The Daily*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 11-001-X.

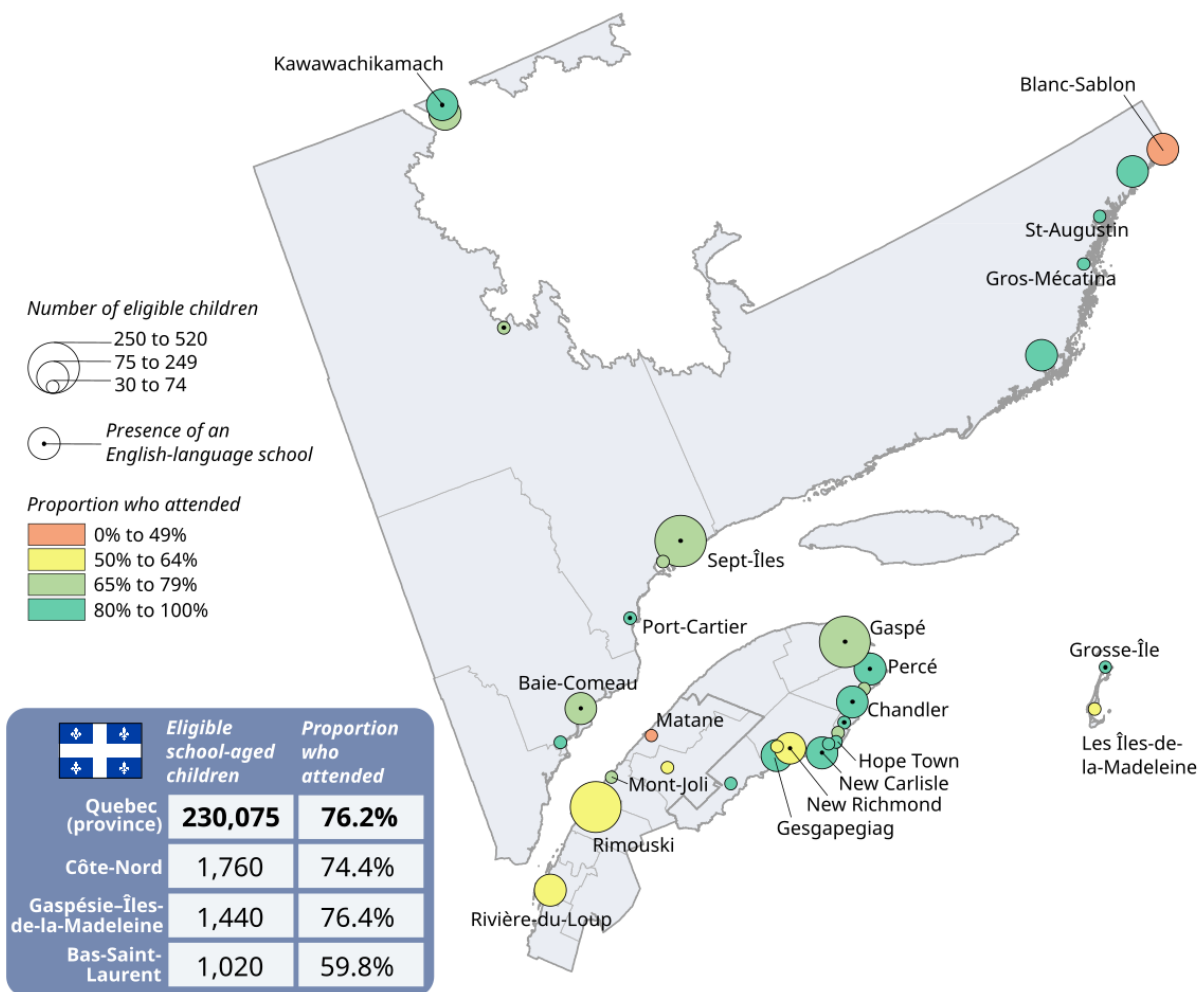
2. This term refers to census economic regions, also known as administrative regions in Quebec.

3. Lemyre, Étienne, 2024, "[The school closest to home: Proximity of French-language elementary schools and enrolment in the Maritime provinces](#)," *Insights on Canadian Society*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X.

4. More information on the reasons behind parents' choice of school and their intentions for the language of instruction of their children will be available when the results of the Survey on the Official Language Minority Population are released.

5. Municipalities correspond to census subdivisions.

Map 1
Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, eastern Quebec, 2021



Notes: This map shows census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

In 2021, 1,760 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Côte-Nord region, including 520 in Sept-Îles, 190 in Baie-Comeau, 135 in Kawawachikamach and 125 in Blanc-Sablon.

- Among eligible children in the Côte-Nord region, 74% were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Sept-Îles (75%) and Baie-Comeau (76%), higher in Kawawachikamach (89%), and about half in Blanc-Sablon (36%) in the Basse-Côte-Nord area.⁶ In the neighbouring communities of Saint-Augustin and Gros-Mécatina, all eligible children had previously attended an English-language school.
- In the Côte-Nord region, 450 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 130 in Sept-Îles.

In 2021, 1,440 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, including 315 in Gaspé, 145 in Gesgapegiag and 100 in New Carlisle.

- Just over three-quarters (76%) of eligible children in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was higher in Gaspé

6. Schools in the Basse-Côte-Nord area are under the jurisdiction of a special school authority where instruction may be in English or in a language other than English.

(79%), Gesgapegiag (86%) and New Carlisle (90%), and all eligible children in Grosse-Île and Hope Town had attended an English-language school. In contrast, the proportion of eligible children who attended an English-language school was lower in New Richmond (58%) and Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine (54%).

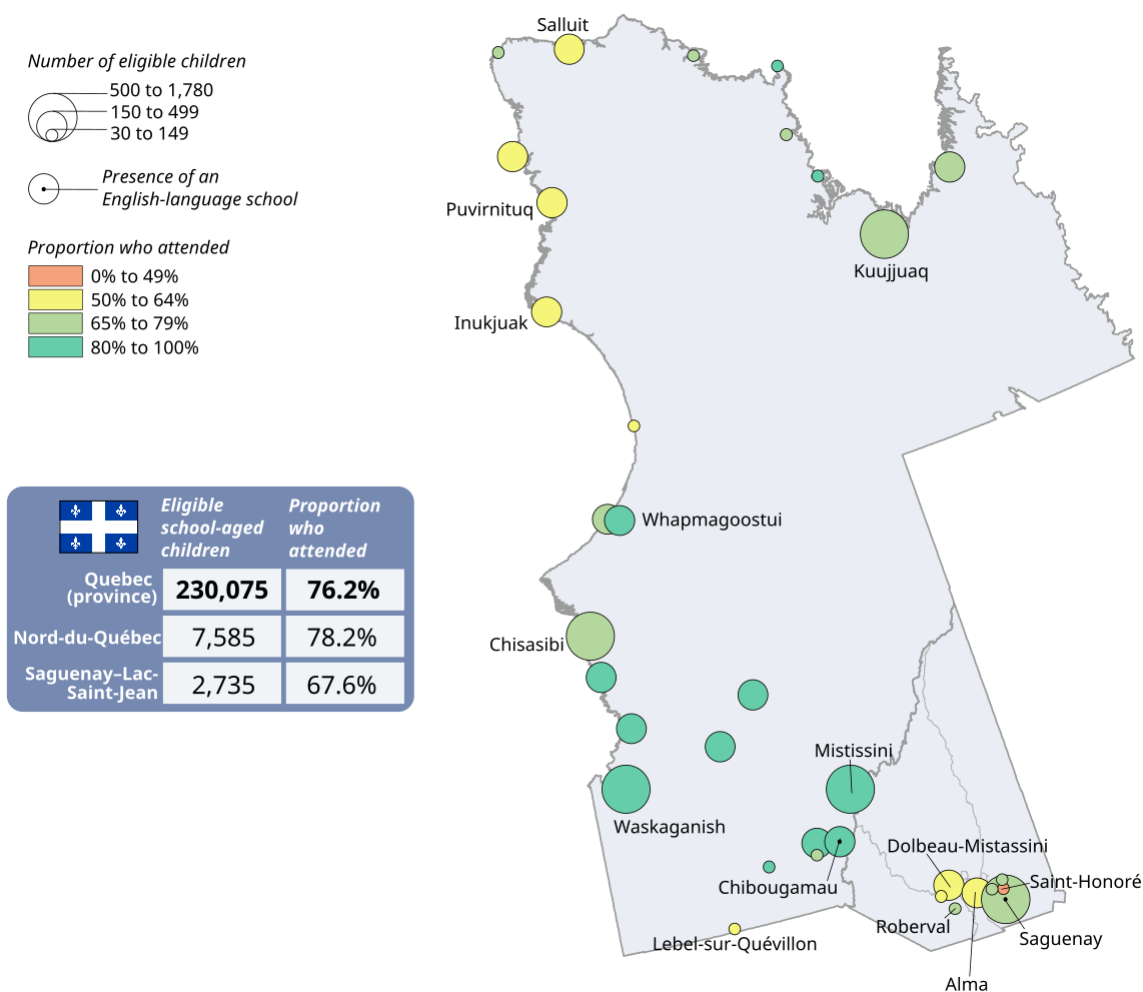
- In the region, 340 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 65 in Gaspé.

In 2021, 1,020 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. Of these, 265 lived in Rimouski, 80 in Rivière-du-Loup and 55 in Matane.

- In the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, three in five (60%) eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was lower in Rimouski (53%), Rivière-du-Loup (50%) and Matane (45%). In Mont-Joli, a greater proportion (71%) of eligible children had attended an English-language school.
- In this region, 410 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 125 in Rimouski.

Map 2

Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, northern Quebec, 2021



Notes: This map shows census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

In 2021, 7,585 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Nord-du-Québec region, including 1,135 in Chisasibi, 910 in Mistissini, 590 in Waskaganish and 510 in Kuujjuaq.

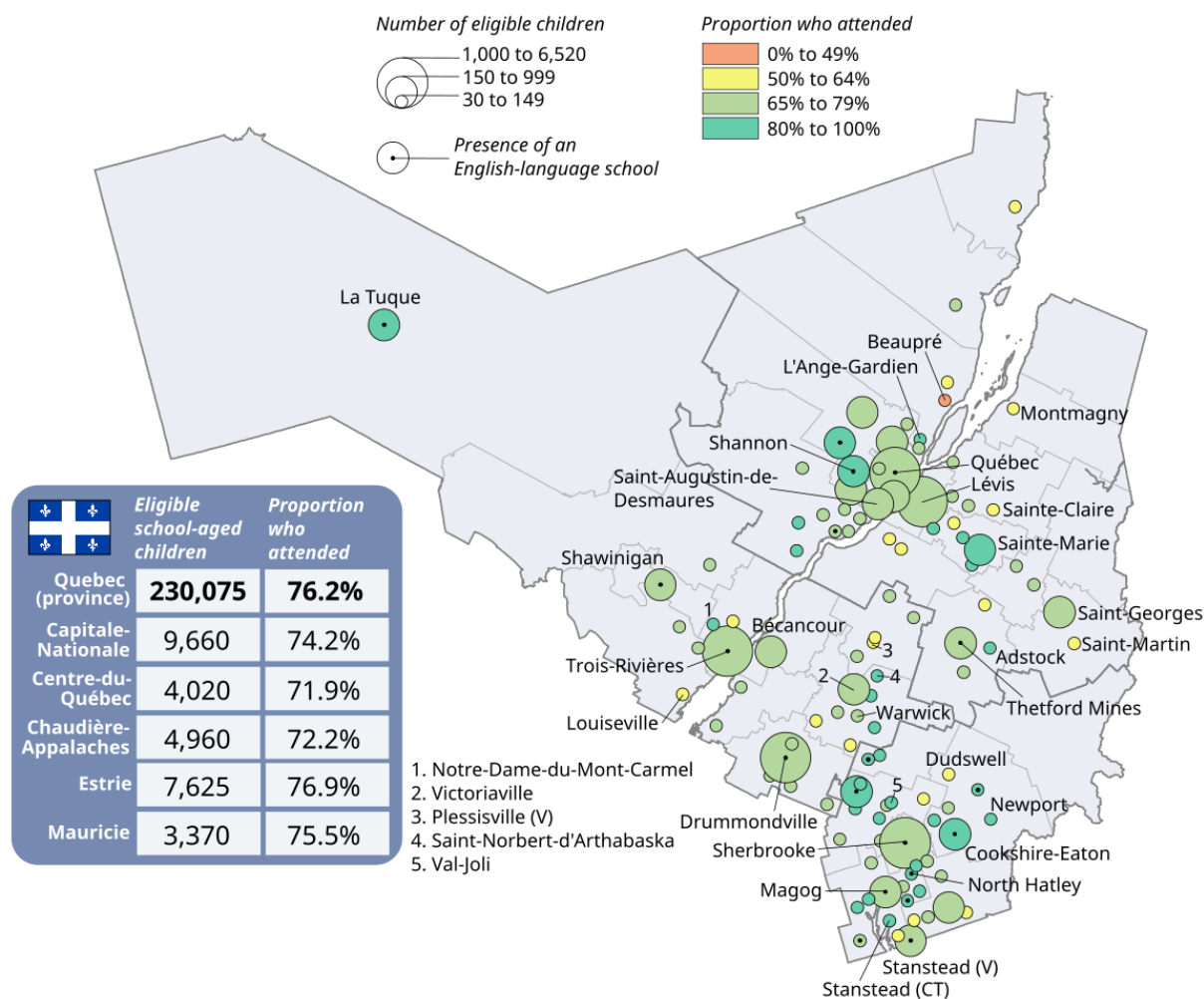
- In Nord-du-Québec, 78% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Chisasibi (77%) in Eeyou Istchee,⁷ but lower in Kuujjuaq (73%) in Nunavik.⁸ Higher proportions of children had attended an English-language school in the other Eeyou Istchee communities of Waskaganish (82%), Mistissini (95%) and Whapmagoostui (96%). In contrast, about half of eligible children in Puvirnituq (51%) and Salluit (51%) in Nunavik had attended an English-language school.
- In this region, 1,655 eligible children had never attended an English-language school in Canada. The following communities each had more than 100 children who had never attended an English-language school: Chisasibi (260 children), Puvirnituq (200), Salluit (150), Inukjuak (145), Kuujjuaq (140) and Waskaganish (105).

In 2021, 2,735 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region, including 1,780 children in Saguenay, 185 in Alma and 150 in Dolbeau-Mistassini.

- In Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, 68% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was higher in Saguenay (72%), while it was lower in Alma (59%) and Dolbeau-Mistassini (57%). Three-quarters (75%) of eligible children in Roberval had attended an English-language school, compared with less than half of those in Saint-Honoré (44%).
- In this region, 1,705 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 505 children in Saguenay.

7. Schools in the Eeyou Istchee territory are under the jurisdiction of a special school authority where instruction may be in English or in a language other than English.

8. Schools in the Nunavik territory are under the jurisdiction of a special school authority where instruction may be in English or in a language other than English.

Map 3
Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, central Quebec, 2021


Notes: This map shows census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

In 2021, 9,660 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Capitale-Nationale region, including 6,520 in Québec, 500 in Shannon and 365 in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures.

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of eligible children in the Capitale-Nationale region were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was identical in Québec and Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, but it was higher in Shannon (86%). All eligible children in L'Ange-Gardien had attended an English-language school, compared with less than half of eligible children in Beaupré (43%).
- In this region, 2,490 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 1,710 children in Québec, 95 in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures and 70 in Shannon.

In 2021, 4,020 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Centre-du-Québec region. Of these, 1,020 children lived in Drummondville, 985 in Victoriaville, 155 in Bécancour and 145 in Warwick.

- In Centre-du-Québec, 72% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Warwick (72%), Drummondville (74%) and Bécancour (74%), but it was higher in Victoriaville (79%). The proportion of eligible children who attended an English-language school was 91% in Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska, compared with 56% in Plessisville (Ville).

- In this region, 1,130 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada. Of these, 265 children lived in Drummondville and 210 in Victoriaville.

In 2021, 4,960 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Chaudière-Appalaches region, including 2,120 in Lévis, 455 in Thetford Mines, 300 in Saint-Georges and 270 in Sainte-Marie.

- In Chaudière-Appalaches, close to three-quarters (72%) of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was higher in Lévis (75%), Thetford Mines (76%) and Sainte-Marie (85%), while it was lower in Saint-Georges (65%). In Adstock, 90% of eligible children had attended an English-language school, while the proportion of children who had attended an English-language school was lower in Montmagny (58%), Sainte-Claire (57%) and Saint-Martin (57%).
- In this region, 1,380 eligible children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 535 children in Lévis, 110 in Thetford Mines and 105 in Saint-Georges.

In 2021, 7,625 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Estrie region, including 3,470 in Sherbrooke, 610 in Magog, 230 in Stanstead (Ville) and 220 in Cookshire-Eaton.

- More than three-quarters (77%) of eligible children in the Estrie region were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Magog (75%), Sherbrooke (77%) and Stanstead (Ville) (78%), while it was higher in Cookshire-Eaton (85%). All eligible school-aged children in Newport, North Hatley, Stanstead (Canton) and Val-Joli had attended an English-language school, compared with half of eligible children in Dudswell (50%).
- In this region, 1,760 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada. More than half lived in Sherbrooke (795 children) or Magog (150).

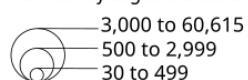
In 2021, 3,370 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Mauricie region, including 2,025 in Trois-Rivières, 470 in Shawinigan and 230 in La Tuque.

- About three-quarters (76%) of eligible children in the Mauricie region were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Trois-Rivières (76%) and Shawinigan (77%), while it was higher in La Tuque (89%). The proportion of eligible children who attended an English-language school was lower in Louiseville (56%).
- In this region, 825 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada. Almost three-quarters lived in Trois-Rivières (495 children) or Shawinigan (110).

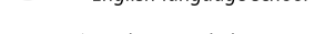
Map 4
Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, Montérégie and Montréal, 2021

	Eligible school-aged children	Proportion who attended
Quebec (province)	230,075	76.2%
Montérégie	45,050	76.5%
Montréal	82,885	81.5%

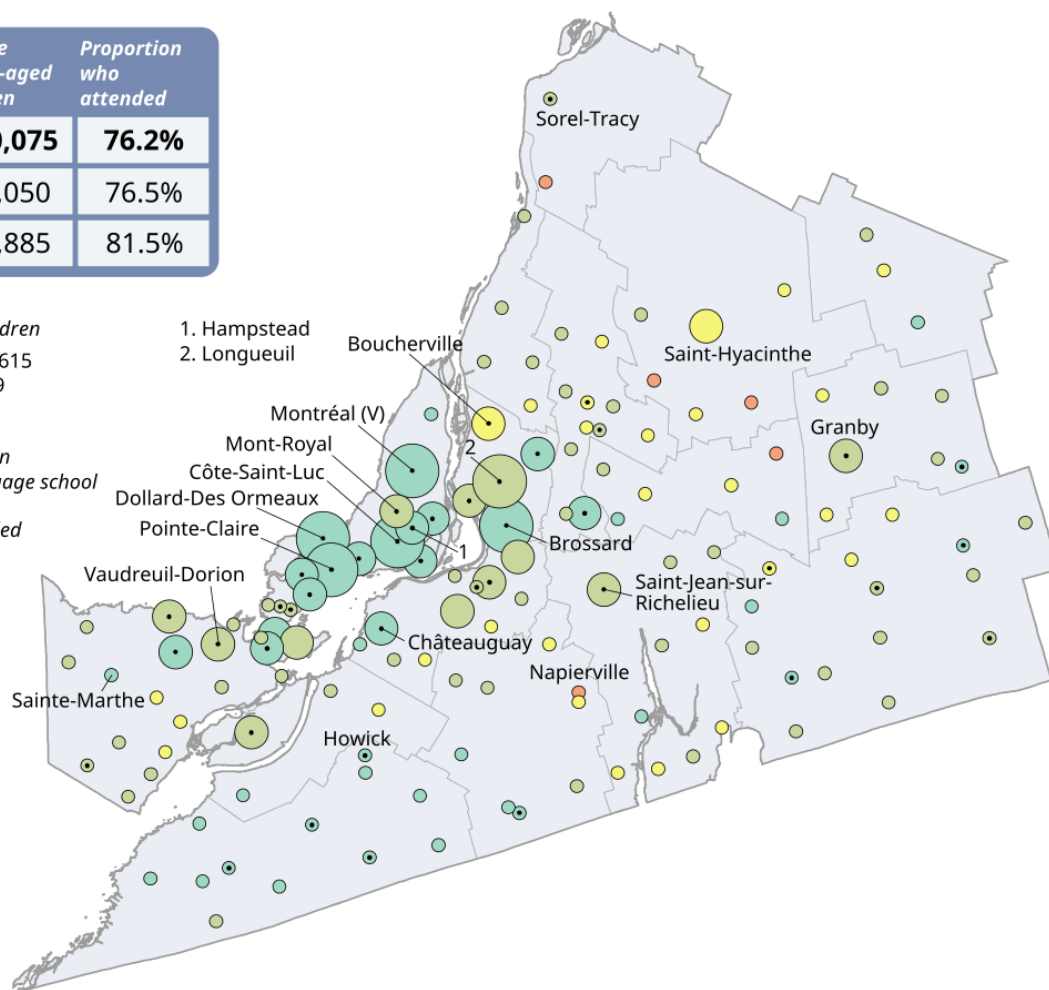
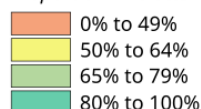
Number of eligible children



Presence of an English-language school



Proportion who attended



Notes: This map shows the census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

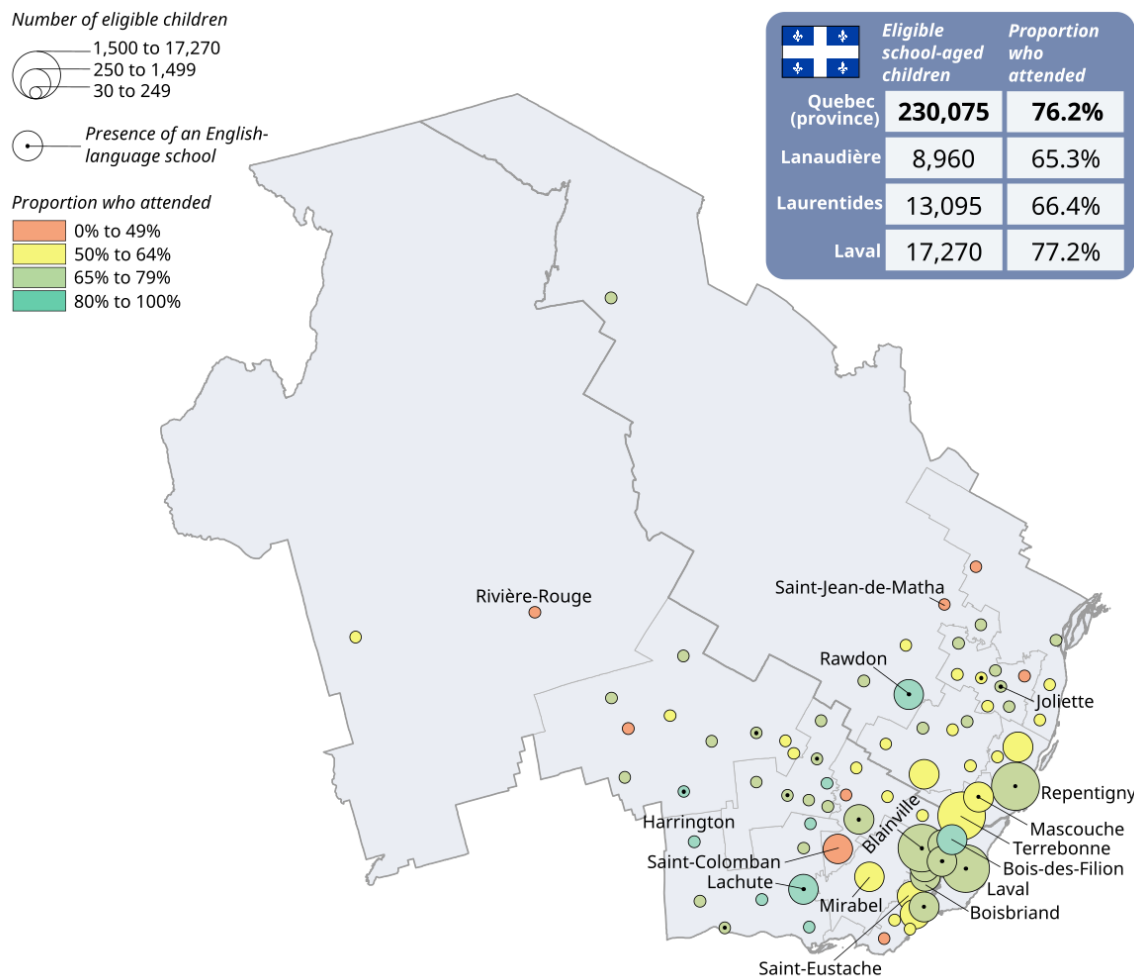
In 2021, 82,885 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Montréal region. Of these, 60,615 lived in the city of Montréal, 4,210 in Dollard-Des Ormeaux, 3,145 in Côte-Saint-Luc and 3,005 in Pointe-Claire.

- In the Montréal region, 82% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was slightly lower in the city of Montréal (80%) than in Pointe-Claire (84%), Dollard-Des Ormeaux (87%) and Côte-Saint-Luc (87%). The proportion of eligible children who attended an English-language school was 93% in Hampstead, while it was lower in Mont-Royal (69%).
- In this region, 16,160 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including nearly three-quarters in the city of Montréal (11,855 children).

In 2021, 45,050 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Montérégie region, including 5,885 in Longueuil, 4,245 in Brossard, 2,905 in Vaudreuil-Dorion and 2,860 in Châteauguay.

- In the Montérégie region, 77% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was slightly higher in Longueuil (79%), Vaudreuil-Dorion (79%), Brossard (83%) and Châteauguay (83%). All eligible children in Howick and Sainte-Marthe had attended an English-language school, compared with 40% of eligible children in Napierville.
- In this region, 10,585 eligible children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 1,250 in Longueuil, 735 in Brossard, 600 in Vaudreuil-Dorion and 515 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

Map 5
Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, Lanaudière, Laurentides and Laval, 2021



Notes: This map shows the census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

In 2021, 8,960 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Lanaudière region. Of these, 2,940 lived in Terrebonne, 1,530 in Repentigny and 1,130 in Mascouche.

- Almost two-thirds (65%) of eligible children in Lanaudière were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Terrebonne (64.5%) and Mascouche (64%), but higher in Repentigny (71%). In Rawdon, 86% of eligible children had attended an English-language school, compared with one-quarter (25%) of eligible children in Saint-Jean-de-Matha.
- In this region, 3,110 school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 1,045 children in Terrebonne, 440 in Repentigny and 410 in Mascouche.

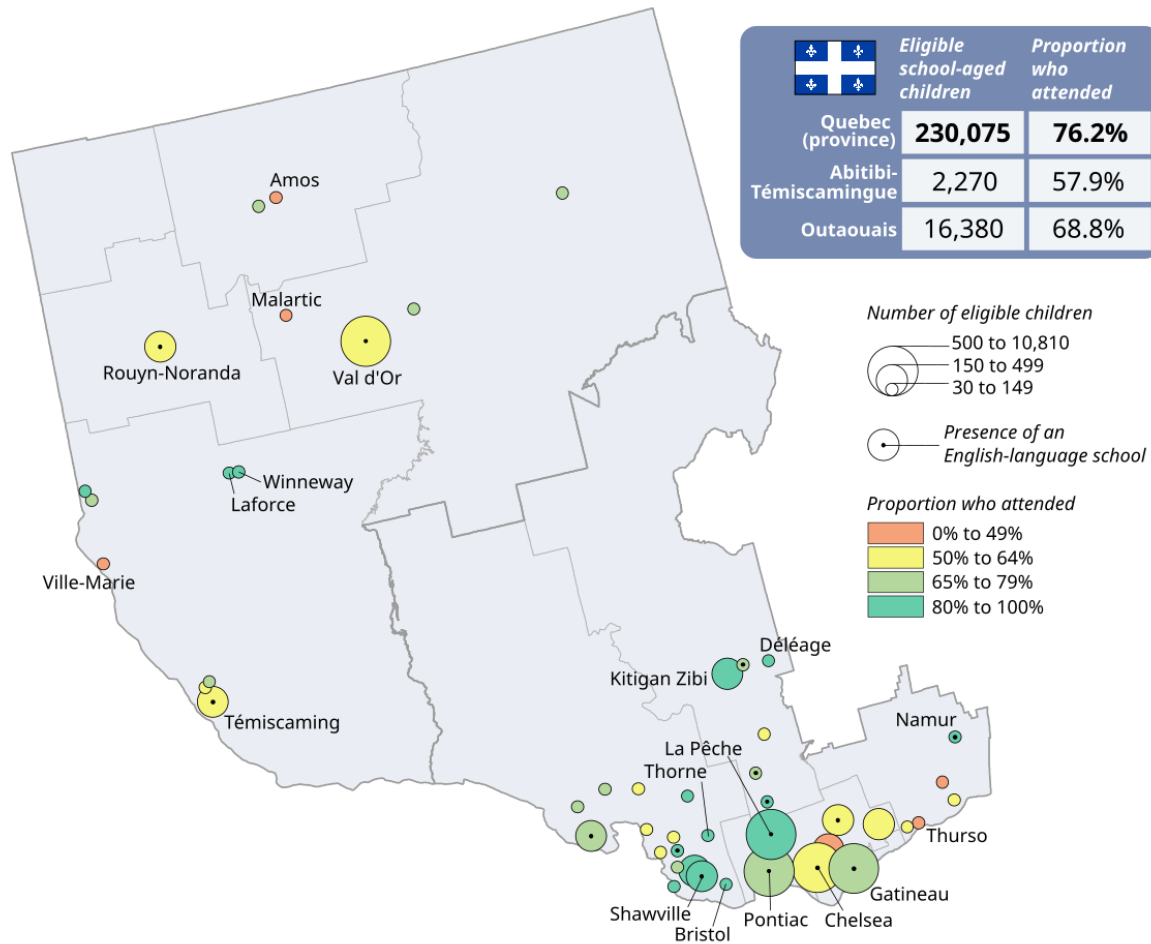
In 2021, 13,095 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Laurentides region, including 1,705 children in Blainville, 1,175 in Mirabel and 1,120 in Boisbriand.

- In the Laurentides, two-thirds (66%) of eligible school-aged children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Blainville (68%) and Boisbriand (68%), but it was lower in Mirabel (56%). In Rivière-Rouge, one-third (33%) of eligible children had attended an English-language school, compared with 89% in Harrington.
- In this region, 4,400 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, including 550 children in Blainville, 520 in Mirabel, 355 in Saint-Eustache and 350 in Boisbriand.

In 2021, 17,270 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in Laval. Of these, 77% were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. As a result, 3,940 eligible children in Laval had never attended an English-language school.

Map 6

Number of eligible school-aged children and proportion who attended an English-language school, western Quebec, 2021



Notes: This map shows the census subdivisions (CSDs) where 30 or more eligible school-aged children (born between 2003 and 2015) lived in 2021, at least 10 of whom could conduct a conversation in English. This map also shows which of these CSDs had at least one school under an English-language school authority.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021. Open Database of Educational Facilities, 2022.

In 2021, 2,270 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, including 685 children in Val-d'Or, 440 in Rouyn-Noranda, 165 in Témiscaming and 125 in Amos.

- In Abitibi-Témiscamingue, just under three in five (58%) eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was the same in Témiscaming (58%), higher in Rouyn-Noranda (64.8%), and lower in Val-d'Or (52%) and Amos (36%). In Ville-Marie, one-third (33%) of eligible children had attended an English-language school, compared with more than 9 in 10 eligible children in Winneway (91%) and Laforce (93%).
- In this region, 955 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada. About half lived in Val-d'Or (330 children) or Rouyn-Noranda (155).

In 2021, 16,380 school-aged children were eligible for instruction in English in the Outaouais region, including 10,810 children in Gatineau, 880 in Chelsea, 675 in La Pêche and 550 in Pontiac.

- In the Outaouais region, 69% of eligible children were attending or had attended an English-language school in Canada. This proportion was similar in Gatineau (68%), higher in La Pêche (87%) and Pontiac (71%), and lower in Chelsea (64%). In Namur, Déléage and Thorne, all eligible children had attended an English-language school. The same was true for more than 19 in 20 eligible children in Bristol (96%) and Kitigan Zibi (97%). In contrast, 42% of eligible children in Thurso had attended an English-language school.
- In this region, 5,110 eligible school-aged children had never attended an English-language school in Canada, more than two-thirds of whom lived in Gatineau (3,510 children).

Concepts and definitions

The information presented in this booklet is from the 2021 Census of Population short-form questionnaire. The location of English-language schools was determined using data from the 2022 Open Database of Educational Facilities.

The 2021 Census results on eligibility for instruction in English at the primary and secondary levels in Quebec are based on the criteria in section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Children are eligible to attend English-language schools when they have at least one parent who attended an English-language primary school in Canada, or the child or their brother or sister attended an English-language primary or secondary school in Canada. The information in this booklet does not account for the criterion of the parents' Canadian citizenship. The census results are a statistical operationalization of the concept of children eligible for instruction in the minority official language, which has certain limitations. The question of eligibility is ultimately a legal issue that requires a case-by-case analysis.

Eligible school-aged children were between 5 and 17 years of age as of December 31, 2020. They were born between 2003 and 2015.

The proportion of children who attended an English-language school corresponds to the percentage of eligible children aged 5 to 17 who were schooled or had been schooled in an English-language school in Canada for at least one year. Enrolment in an English-language school may be current at the time of the census or may have been prior to the census. In addition, it may have been in the municipality where the eligible child lived at the time of the 2021 Census or elsewhere in Canada. Lastly, enrolment may have been at a school under an English-language school authority or at another type of English-language school.

On the maps in this booklet, "English-language schools" include public schools under an English-language school authority. Some municipalities that have an English-language school are not presented in the maps because they did not meet the following criterion: having at least 30 eligible school-aged children, at least 10 of whom can conduct a conversation in English. Similarly, the maps do not show schools that offer full or partial instruction in English and are not under an English-language school authority, such as some private schools and schools under the jurisdiction of special school authorities.

The data products that present results on instruction in the minority official language, by a variety of standardized geographic regions, are available through the [Census Profile](#), [highlight tables](#) and [data tables](#). In particular, the table [Instruction in the minority official language of eligible school-aged children, by eligibility criterion, age group and level, 2021](#) provides more information on eligible school-aged children in Quebec who attended an English-language school in Canada.