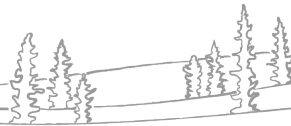




# Support Assistants

How they support students, classrooms and teachers



## What do Support Assistants do?

Support Assistants (also known as Education Assistants, Classroom Assistants and/or Teacher's Assistants) play a valuable role in assisting the teacher in meeting the diverse needs of students. While Support Assistants may work with specific students, they are also a resource for the whole class.

Under the direct supervision of a qualified teacher, Support Assistants (SA) work in classrooms to help implement aspects of instructional and behavioural plans, assist with personal needs of students, classroom management and student supervision, and provide other supports as needed.

Support Assistants ensure all students have the opportunity for a successful and meaningful learning experience.

## How many SAs are in NWT schools?

In the 2021-22 school year, the Government of the Northwest Territories funded 133 Support Assistant positions in NWT schools through Inclusive Schooling funding at the rate of 1 Support Assistant for every 64.25 JK-12 students.

An additional 205 Support Assistant positions were funded by the Government of Canada through [Jordan's Principle](#) and the [Inuit Child First Initiative](#). These programs ensure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products services, and supports

they need, when they need them and is based on ensuring substantive equality, provision of culturally appropriate services and safeguarding the best interests of the child.

## What training is available for SAs?

Support Assistants receive professional development at the school and regional level, through Government of the Northwest Territories staff development funding.

In January 2022, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), along with Douglas College, began offering the [Education Assistance and Inclusion \(EIA\) Certificate](#) to its currently employed support assistants for free as a pilot program.

This program will help Support Assistants develop specialized skills that encourage the wellbeing, development, and education of NWT students.

ECE's Student Support and Wellness division also offers optional professional development opportunities that can be accessed virtually. Additionally, where appropriate and upon referral, the Territorial-Based Support Team also offers training to Support Assistants.

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## More information

Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
[www.gov.nt.ca](http://www.gov.nt.ca)