



Nova Scotia

Population – 939,531

Total Area – 55,283 km²

Population Density – 16.99 people/km²

Capital (Population) – Halifax (372,679)

Number of K–12 Schools – 426 (2010-11)

Number of K–12 Students – 128,131 (2010-11)

Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 5

Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – ~2,450

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Province-led programme	Yes	
Other distance programmes	Yes	
Provincial-level policy	Yes	Included in the Provincial Teachers' Agreement

Distance Programmes

There is only one online learning programme in the province, the Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS). Beginning in 2011–12, the Ministry consolidated funding for the NSVS so that all courses are now offered by the province and not the individual school boards. Teachers of NSVS courses are employed by the school boards throughout the province and are supervised within their own school boards. The *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* (CSAP)—the pan-provincial school board for French-first language students—uses a separate videoconferencing system and the two online platforms used by the English school boards. CSAP also has a sharing arrangement for online programming from the Province of New Brunswick. There have been approximately 650 students per year enrolled in the NSVS from the eight English-speaking school boards and the CSAP. There is also a correspondence study programme (CPS) that the Ministry is currently transitioning to an online delivery format. At present, there are approximately 1,800 students and 2,200 course enrolments in CSP. Approximately half of the students are also attending a public school; the others are adult students or students who live outside of the province. Finally, there is a new private online programme – the Virtual High School (Nova Scotia), which was started in August 2009 by the Virtual High School (Ontario).

Governance and Regulation

Learning Resources and Technology Services, a division of the public schools branch of the Department of Education, manages distance education programmes in Nova Scotia. There is currently no legislation specifically related to K–12 distance education in Nova Scotia; however, there are 11 provisions included in the agreement between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union. As a contract between the Government and the teachers' union, most of the provisions deal with teacher certification and quality of life issues. For example, there are provisions related to defining the work day, professional development requirements, program oversight, class size, and management of the distance programs. Given the changes with the NSVS, additional regulation is expected in the next one to three years.