

3.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

Population: 43,672

Number of K-12 Schools: 49

Number of K-12 Students: 8,204

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 2

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: 150



K-12 E-Learning Programs

Currently a distance learning pilot is being conducted that involves five small Northwest Territories community high schools located across three regional boards of education. The teachers are based in Inuvik and each class also includes a few Inuvik students. Support personnel for the pilot include volunteers, educational assistants and teachers who, as part of their teaching assignment, are located in each high school that has a distance learning student group.

During the 2014-15 school year, 112 students were enrolled in Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) courses. These courses continue to be a viable choice for some students, primarily students who have personal learning support systems. Francophone students regularly take print-based, self-paced ADLC courses through *Centre francophone d'éducation à distance*. Support for these courses is coordinated through the school principal, and parents are closely involved. The 2014-16 distance learning pilot is actually testing the difference an onsite support person makes in the completion and credit acquisition of courses offered from a distance.

Finally, each district education authority (i.e., school board) uses the Northwest Territories' adaptation of Manitoba's *Literacy with Information Communications Technology* curriculum to varying degrees. This curriculum sets the stage for ICT-supported learning that might result in blended learning practices that are not known enough to be articulated at this time.

Governance and Regulation

The *Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to "authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program" (p. 72). Since 2004 the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the ADLC for Northwest Territories students to use their courses. In 2010 the regional boards of education took on the funding of these courses. Additionally, Section 3.3 of the *Northwest Territories School Handbook* outlines a series of requirements for distance learning that schools must compile with.