



Quebec

Population – 7,907,375⁶

Total Area – 1,542,056 km²

Population Density – 5.13 people/km²

Capital (Population) – Quebec City (754,358⁷)

Number of K–12 Schools – 2,766 (2006-07)⁸

Number of K–12 Students – 949,350 (2006-2007)

Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 3

Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – ~30,000

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Province-led programme	No	All three distance education programmes are provincial in scope
Other distance programmes	Yes	
Provincial-level policy	No	

Distance Programmes

The first distance education programme established in Quebec in 1946 was a correspondence school for vocational education. This programme was expanded several times and eventually became the *Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec* (SOFAD) in April 1996. SOFAD is a not-for-profit organisation tasked with the development and production of the distance learning materials that the school boards use in their own district-based programmes for adult students (i.e., students who have reached the age of 16 before July 1 of the current school year). The second distance education programme began in the 1999–2000 school year, when three English-speaking school boards initiated the Distance Education and Community Network. This programme grew to include all nine English-speaking school boards and became Learn Quebec in 2006, which provides a variety of distance learning resources to English-language students. Then in 2002, the Quebec Ministry of Education funded the *Écoles éloignées en réseau* or Remote Networked Schools (RNS) initiative. Although one of the initial goals of the RNS initiative was to provide distance education to K–12 students, that goal has not been fully realised. To date, the RNS has focused on teacher professional development and technology integration projects.

Governance and Regulation

The Education Act in Quebec makes no reference to distance education, as the school boards have held the primary responsibility for distance education since 1995. Policies and regulations related to K–12 distance education also appear to be at the district level.

6 Institut de la statistique du Québec (2010). Le bilan démographique du Québec. Édition 2010, 91 p., p.18.

7 André, Dominique (2011). « Un bref regard sur l'évolution démographique des municipalités du Québec depuis 2000 », Coup d'œil sociodémographique, Institut de la statistique du Québec, no 8, 5 p.

8 Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (2008). Statistiques de l'éducation, Édition 2008.