

3.7 Manitoba (MB)

Population: 1,272,000

Number of K-12 Schools: 869

Number of K-12 Students: 183,304

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: ~38

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~8000



K-12 E-Learning Programs

Manitoba Education and Training continued to support three distance learning options in 2015-16: Independent Study Option (ISO), Teacher Mediated Option (TMO) and Web-Based Course (WBC) Option. The ISO (i.e., print) continued to offer 52 courses in English and 11 courses in French for grades 9-12 students. The TMO, which is managed by rural school divisions through the TMO Consortium in partnership with Manitoba Education and Training, offered 19 English courses for grades 9-12 students. The WBC Option provided access to 43 courses in English and 4 courses in French. Each school division in the province has participated in one or more of the above distance education program options; however, participation varies from year to year depending on the changing needs of students and schools. The numbers outlined for the 2015–16 school year indicate 1596 students accounted for 2668 enrollments in the ISO, approximately 100 students from 23 different schools accounted for 421 enrollments in the TMO and 6500 student enrollments in the WBC Option. Overall, there were approximately 9589 distance education enrollments in programs directly supported by Manitoba Education and Training, and students could be enrolled in more than one program.

In terms of blended learning, Manitoba Education and Training provides teachers with access to the provincial learning management system in order to support and supplement their classroom teaching practices. Teachers make requests for courses (and to add students to those courses) through an online WBC Request System. As such, school divisions and schools develop their own blended learning programs and determine how to infuse technology into their classrooms to best suit the needs of their learners. Additionally, Manitoba Education and Training assists teachers in understanding the pedagogy of blended and online learning through training workshops and presentations.

Governance and Regulation

The only reference in the *Public Schools Act* regarding distance education is mention that the Minister of Education can approve courses of study, including correspondence and other courses. Manitoba Education and Training has issued other regulatory and policy documents, along with handbooks for each of the three distance learning options.

Manitoba Education and Training has created a framework that allows for a virtual collegiate to operate in Manitoba. The formation of the virtual collegiate occurred as part of a three-year pilot collaboration among educational entities already recognized and operating distance education programs in the province. A signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the province governs the collaboration. To date, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) has signed an MOU with the province and was granted a Manitoba school code for Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate effective September 2014. Recently, InformNet Virtual Collegiate, which offers 9-12 online courses through two school divisions, signed an MOU and received a school code that took effect in September 2016.