



British Columbia

Population – 4,419,974
 Total Area – 944,735 km²
 Population Density – 4.68 people/km²
 Capital (Population) – Victoria (78,057)
 Number of K–12 Schools – 1,953 (2010-11)
 Number of K–12 Students – 649,952 (2010-11)
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 68
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – 88,000

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Province-led programme	Yes	LearnNowBC online portal
Other online programmes	Yes	54 public and 14 independent (private)
Provincial-level policy	Yes	School Act, Sections 3.1 & 75 (4.1) Distributed Learning Policy Independent School Act, Section 8.1

Distance Programmes

At present, there are 54 district-level public distributed learning schools and 14 independent (or private) distributed learning schools. LearnNowBC is a web portal and single point of entry to information about distributed (online) learning in British Columbia for students, parents, and educators. In 2010–11, there were approximately 88,000 unique students enrolled in one or more courses through distributed learning in British Columbia. Additionally, Open School provides provincial content and online hosting services to school boards that do not have the capacity or desire to manage their own on a cost-recovery model.

Governance and Regulation

There have been few changes to the governance and regulation of distributed learning. The legislative language in the *School Act, 2006* allows for a student who is engaged in distributed learning to enrol in educational programmes that fall under multiple jurisdictions or Boards of Education (section 3.1), and that any school district wishing to establish a distributed learning school can do so “only with the prior agreement of the minister” (section 75, 4.1)). The Independent School Act contains similar language concerning the establishment of distributed learning schools “only with the prior agreement of the minister” (section 8.1). As such, these agreements between the Ministry and the school districts or independent schools, combined with policy, serve as the main governance documents for distributed learning in British Columbia.

In addition to these agreements, the Ministry also has a series of policy documents that outline the regulations that distributed learning schools must follow. Links to all of the policy documents, along with the general agreements between the Ministry and school districts are available on the Ministry’s website (http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dist_learning/).