

3.10 British Columbia (BC)

Population: 4,631,302

Number of K-12 Schools: 3,878

Number of K-12 Students: 635,057

Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 76

Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: 77,912



K-12 Distance Programs

In 2013-14 there were 60 district-level, public distributed learning schools (distance education providers) and 16 independent (or private) distributed learning schools that enrolled approximately 78,000 unique students in one or more courses. LearnNowBC continues to serve as a Web portal and single point of entry to information about public distributed learning schools for students, parents and educators in the province. Additionally, Open School BC provides provincial content and online hosting services on a cost-recovery model to school districts lacking the capacity or desire to manage their own.

Governance and Regulation

The distributed learning landscape in British Columbia has remained relatively stable over the past years. The legislative language in section 3.1 and section 75 (4.1) of the *School Act, 2006*, as well as section 8.1 of the *Independent School Act, 2006*, still govern the operation of distributed learning programs. Both pieces of legislation contain similar language concerning the establishment of distributed learning schools “only with the prior agreement of the Minister.” As such, these agreements between the Ministry and the school districts or independent schools 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.