



Manitoba

Population – 1,213,815
 Total Area – 649,950 km²
 Population Density – 1.87 people/km²
 Capital (Population) – Winnipeg (633,451)
 Number of K–12 Schools – 684 (2010-11)
 Number of K–12 Students – 179,975 (2010-11)
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 38⁹
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – ~9,000¹⁰

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Province-led programme	Yes	
Other online programmes	Yes	Uses province learning management system and course content
Provincial-level policy	Yes	Currently under review

Distance Programmes

Distance learners continue to be supported with three options: Independent Study Option (ISO), Teacher Mediated Option (TMO), and Web-Based Course (WBC) Option. The Ministry of Education, or Manitoba Education, is directly responsible for the ISO and TMO distance education options. The ISO provides school-age and adult learners access to print-based distance learning courses from grades 9 to 12. The TMO provides school-age and adult learners access to grades 9 through 12 print-based distance learning courses, supplemented with audio teleconference classes hosted by an instructor at scheduled times during the school day. The WBC Option provides schools and teachers access to the online courses developed by Manitoba Education, along with use of the provincial LMS, to manage their own online or blended learning programs. In the 2010–11 school year, there were approximately 2,565 enrolments for ISO, 400 for TMO, and 6,000 for WBC. Overall, there were about 9,000 distance education enrolments.

Governance and Regulation

The only reference in the Public Schools Act regarding distance education is that the Minister of Education can approve courses of study, including correspondence and other courses. Manitoba Education has issued other regulatory and policy documents, along with handbooks for each of the three distance learning options. Manitoba Education has been in the process of reviewing policies related to distance learning that were originally written in 2000. The Distance Learning Unit and the Learning Support & Technology Unit of Manitoba Education are working on renewal of the policy documents so they better reflect the current situation in Manitoba.

⁹ In theory, each school division is participating in one or more of the Ministry's options.

¹⁰ This represents the number of student enrolments and not necessarily the number of students.