



4.7 Manitoba

Population – 1,208,268

Total Area – 649,950 km²

Population Density – 1.876 people/km²

Capital (Population) – Winnipeg (663,617)

Number of K–12 Schools – 746 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Students – 195,152 (2011–12)

Number of K–12 Distance Education Programs – 38⁸

Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – ~9126⁹

K–12 Distance Education Policy – None

Distance Programs

Distance learners in Manitoba 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 is directly responsible for the ISO distance education option, which provides school-age and adult learners access to print-based distance learning courses from grades 9 to 12. Approximately 130 schools registered students in one or more ISO course throughout the school year. The Ministry works with a consortium of school divisions to offer the TMO program, which provides school-age and adult learners access to grades 9 through 12 print-based distance learning courses supplemented with audio teleconference classes hosted by a teacher 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. During the 2011–12 school year there were 2710 enrolments for ISO, 416 for TMO, and approximately 6000 students for WBC. Overall, there were about 9126 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. The Ministry has been in the process of reviewing policies related to distance learning that were originally written in 2000 for the past three years to ensure they better reflect the current situation in Manitoba. Finally, the Ministry has also been exploring options to support the formation of a virtual collegiate(s) in the province.

Interprovincial and International

If a student in Manitoba enrolls in a course offered by an online program in another province or territory, it is up to the individual school administrators to assign “Out-of-Province” credits for the course(s) that have an equivalent in Manitoba or courses that have no Manitoba equivalent (for example, locally developed curricula). This is the same process used for students who attend

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..

a bricks-and-mortar school out of province and then move to Manitoba. Where the school administrator accepts the transfer, they use the designation “S” for “Standing” to report credits granted in the place of a percentage mark. In other words, achievement in Out of Province courses cannot be used to calculate an average, etc. Any transfer of credit is at the school administrator’s discretion. This process applies to any out-of-province courses—regardless if it is another jurisdiction in Canada or internationally.

Under current regulations Manitoba schools cannot deliver any online courses to students in other jurisdictions for credit. Schools can offer a course to an out-of-province or out-of-country student, but cannot issue Manitoba standing (i.e., credit) to an out-of-province or out-of-country student. Students must be registered in a Manitoba school to earn Manitoba credit(s).