



4.4 New Brunswick (NB)

Pop: 756,050

K–12 Schools: 314

K–12 Students: 101,079

of K–12 DE Programmes: 2

of K–12 DE Students: ~2,150

The current model of K–12 distance education has been in place in New Brunswick for much of the past decade. The responsibility for this online delivery model is divided between the Anglophone and Francophone divisions.

Distance Programmes

Both the Anglophone and Francophone divisions of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development manage K–12 online learning programmes that are able to service secondary students in New Brunswick in either of the province’s two official languages. During the 2012–13 school year, there were approximately 1,600 students enrolled in the Anglophone programme and 549 students enrolled in the Francophone programme.

In addition to the distance education offerings for students in grades 11 and 12, the Department has also extended its online teacher professional development offerings to include teaching assistants and other adults within the K–12 system (e.g., nurses who administer the Healthy Learner Programme in schools). Further, the Department is also examining areas for expansion (e.g., more French courses, adding grade 10 courses, summer school, etc.), but this exploration is still in the exploration phase.

Governance and Regulation

There remains no specific legislation that governs K–12 distance education in New Brunswick. The system continues to operate based on collaboration between the Ministry of Education and individual school districts and a Ministry-published policy handbook. The policy handbook outlines in a very specific fashion the responsibilities of a variety of individuals at the Ministry, district and school level to ensure the orderly implementation of the distance education programme. Interestingly, in addition to school officials such as a registrar and local site facilitator, there are specific responsibilities outlined for both distance education students and the parents of students who are enrolled in distance education. This policy handbook is currently being revised.