



4.2 Nova Scotia (NS)

Pop: 940,789

K–12 Schools: 407

K–12 Students: 122,643

of K–12 DE Programmes: 2

of K–12 DE Students: ~2,550

The roots of K–12 distance education in Nova Scotia began in 1920 with the introduction of a correspondence study program (CSP). While this model of delivery continues to exist, the province has also seen the use of an educational television programme that began in the 1960s. In the past decade, the province saw the introduction of district-based online programmes that have evolved into a single, province-wide online programme – the Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS).

Distance Programmes

The NSVS is one of two providers of K–12 distance education in the province. During the 2012–13 school year, approximately 800 students were enrolled in online courses through the NSVS from the eight English-speaking school boards and the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial*. The other K–12 distance education programme is CPS, which the Ministry continues to transition to an online delivery format. At present there are approximately 1,750 students enrolled in courses through the CSP—approximately half these students are also attending a public school, while the other half are adult students or live outside of the province.

Governance and Regulation

The Learning Resources and Technology Services division of the Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education manages distance education programmes in Nova Scotia.

The provision of distance education continues to be governed by the 11 provisions included in the agreement between the government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. As a contract between the government and teachers' union, most of the provisions deal with teacher certification and quality of life issues. For example, there are provisions related to defining the work day, professional development requirements, programme oversight, class size and the management of the distance programmes.