

3.2 Nova Scotia (NS)

Population: 940,789

Number of K-12 Schools: 407

Number of K-12 Students: 122,643

Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 2

Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: ~2,720



K-12 Distance Programs

Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) provides K-12 distance education to public school students in Nova Scotia. During the 2013-14 school year approximately 970 students from the eight English-speaking school boards and the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* were enrolled in online courses through the NSVS.

The correspondence studies program is the other K-12 distance education program. Work is ongoing to transition these courses to an online delivery format. At present there are approximately 1,750 students enrolled in courses through the correspondence study program. Close to half of these students attend a public school while the other half are adult students, home-schooled students or students living outside of Nova Scotia.

Governance and Regulation

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

The provision of distance education through the Nova Scotia Virtual School continues to be governed by the eleven 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 workday, professional development requirements, program oversight, class size and the management of the distance programs.