

3.2 Nova Scotia (NS)

Population: 942,926

Number of K-12 Schools: 395

Number of K-12 Students: 119,383

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 2

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~2,300



K-12 E-Learning Programs

There are two distance education programs in the province. First, the Nova Scotia Virtual School (NSVS) provided online courses to approximately 800 students from the eight English-speaking school boards and the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* during the 2014-15 school year. Second, the correspondence studies program provided courses to approximately 1,500 students enrolled in courses through 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. Currently, work is ongoing to transition these correspondence courses to an online delivery format.

There were also a number of blended learning initiatives in Nova Scotia that are being implemented in the school system. There are increasing expectations that students at all grade levels will utilize technology and online resources to demonstrate achievement of curriculum outcomes. For example, *Google Apps for Education* is now available to all students, teachers, and administrators province-wide and there are approximately 54,000 active Google accounts on the server. Further, the Ministry provides a blended learning platform that saw extensive use in classrooms around the province (i.e., more than 27,500 active users including teachers and students in primary through to grade 12).

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.