



## Northwest Territories

Population – 42,940  
 Total Area – 1,346,106 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Population Density – 0.03 people/km<sup>2</sup>  
 Capital (Population) – Yellowknife (18,700)  
 Number of K–12 Schools – 49 (2010-11)  
 Number of K–12 Students – 8,576 (2010-11)  
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – 1  
 Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – 20+

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Territory-led programme	No	
Other online programmes	No	Beaufort-Delta Education Council E-Learning Program and distance offerings from the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)
Territorial-level policy	Yes	

## Distance Programmes

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ADLC in 2004 to establish a partnership for providing print-based and online courses to students in the territory. From 2000 to 2005 there were a total of 329 course enrolments, with 106 students who passed their course, 77 who failed, and 146 who withdrew. To increase efficient use of these resources, the government began reimbursing schools only for successfully completed courses. Eventually, to increase accountability and to reflect the school's inherent responsibility to provide appropriate programming, the department placed the full responsibility of online courses on the regional authorities. This funding for distance education ended in June 2010 and, consequently, the Department no longer requires specific data on online course enrolments and completions from district education authorities.

In addition, in many remote communities, distance education is important for providing academic programming to small numbers of secondary students. Some of the individual education councils have begun to create their own distance education opportunities. For example, the Beaufort-Delta has offered synchronous courses in three communities using a *Moodle* platform. These initial efforts have provided opportunities for an additional 18 to 20 students in that part of the territory.

## Governance and Regulation

The *Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to “authorise, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programmes in the provision of the education programme” (p. 72). In addition, the MOU outlines the specific responsibilities, duties, and opportunities for both parties. Furthermore, Section 17 of the *Senior Secondary School Administrators’ Handbook* outlines a series of requirements for distance learning.