



4.8 Saskatchewan

Population – 1,033,381
Total Area – 651,900 km²
Population Density – 1.59 people/km²
Capital (Population) – Regina (193,100)
Number of K–12 Schools – 861¹⁰ (2011–12)
Number of K–12 Students – 184,828 (2011–12)
Number of K–12 Distance Education Programmes – up to 28
Number of K–12 Distance Education Students – 2516
K–12 Distance Education Policy – None

Distance Programs

In 2009-10 the Ministry of Education devolved the responsibility for distance education to the school divisions. It is not known how many of the 28 school divisions operate and/or participate in some sort of distance education program. The Saskatchewan Distance Learning Course Repository lists 16 participating programs as offering courses or spaces to students outside of their own program. However, at least one of the programs listed did not provide any distance education during the 2011–12 school year, so it is unknown how accurate that information. During the 2011–12 school year there were 3293 course enrolments from 2516 distinct students.

While the Ministry of Education still tracks the number of students and enrolments in courses offered at a distance as a part of their provincial data collection strategy, the Ministry failed to respond to repeated requests for information for this study. During the 2010–11 school year there were 4497 course enrolments from 3285 distinct students.

Governance and Regulation

The only reference to distance education in the *Education Act* is related to the Technology Supported Revolving Fund, which indicates that it is to be used “to provide educational courses to all areas of Saskatchewan through the use of distance-education technology.” This section is no longer relevant with the devolution of distance education services from the Ministry.

Interprovincial and International

If a student in Saskatchewan were to enrol in an online course from another province or country, the credits would be assessed for equivalency. If there was an equivalency with a Saskatchewan course, the student would be given a Standing Granted credit on their Saskatchewan Transcript for the purpose of enabling completion of grade 12, but no mark would be given. The Standing Granted designation is only given for courses that have been completed and successfully passed. The specific content of the course is not examined. The Credit Transfer Guide outlines equivalencies that have been recognized for courses in other Canadian jurisdictions.

It is Government policy that Saskatchewan schools are not permitted to offer distance courses to students outside the province except in specific situations. For example, where students have lived in Saskatchewan but are now temporarily out of the province, those students are able to register for distance courses while they are away.

¹¹ This includes 771 provincial schools and an additional 90 First Nations schools.