

3.8 Saskatchewan (SK)

Population: 1,138,879

Number of K-12 Schools: 762

Number of K-12 Students: 175,202

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 16

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~15,000



K-12 E-Learning Programs

During the 2014-15 school year there were 14 school divisions and two other providers of distance education in Saskatchewan based on the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Course Repository. The Ministry of Education indicates that it only gathers data for students taking online distance education courses that count towards completion of a secondary diploma at the 10, 20, 30 levels (i.e., grades 10 to 12). During the 2014-15 school year, there were 4,980 secondary course enrolments involving 3,405 unique students and 4,825 credits were earned. The Ministry also indicated that there were students in Kindergarten through grade 9 taking courses online through a variety of providers, but that the Ministry did not collect data about their involvement. Based on previous editions of this study, researchers have estimated that the actual level of K-12 distance education activity could be four to five times the figure reported by the Ministry.

At this time, the Ministry does not track individual blended learning programs in the province. All 28 school divisions are implementing the Saskatchewan Technology in Education Framework (TEF) and are working to ensure that students have access to the tools they require to succeed in school, including access to technology. Within school divisions, teachers have the choice to deliver instruction using a variety of teaching methods, including blended learning, to best meet the needs of their students. Many school divisions are currently building blended learning modules and resources to support teachers in blending instruction in their classrooms.

Governance and Regulation

The delivery of distance education, online learning, and blended learning in the province is guided by the TEF, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the education sector with regards to the use of technology in education. It contains a number of outcomes and indicators that guide the use of technology in the province in the areas of teaching and learning, administrative operations and infrastructure. In particular, the TEF requires that school divisions ensure distance and online learning opportunities are available to students, intra- and inter-school division learning opportunities are available to students with local support provided, distance learners have success rates that are equivalent to students in traditional classroom environments, and assistive technology and technical support is available to students with intensive needs and/or school personnel.