

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Yukon</h2> <p>Population – 33,442 Total Area – 482,443 km² Population Density – 0.07 people/km² Capital (Population) – Whitehorse (22,898) Number of K-12 Schools – 28 (2009-10) Number of K-12 Students – 2933 (2009-10)</p>
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The Yukon is the most western and also the smallest of Canada’s three territories. The territory follows the same curriculum as the Province of British Columbia, with some additions to address their distinct language and culture. Recently, Statistics Canada reported that the Yukon was the most connected educational jurisdiction in Canada with a student/computer ratio of 2.9:1.

K-12 Online Learning

Category	Yes/No	Comments
Territory-led programme	Yes	Video conferencing
Other online programmes	No	Uses programmes from other provinces
Territorial-level policy	Yes	

Online Programmes

The Yukon has had a long history with K-12 distance education, or distributed learning as it is referred to in the territory. During the 1998-99 school year, the Yukon Department of Education piloted a Grade 11 course in Information Technology to 12 students (10 of whom completed the course successfully). The pilot was continued for several subsequent years. In 1999-2000, two Yukon students participated in a national distributed learning project, The Hurley Island Project, developed and implemented by the Ontario Independent Learning Centre. The Hurley Island Project saw these two students join 23 other students from across the Canada in an online Grade 11 Information Technology course and Grade 12 Environmental Science course.

Since 2004, the Yukon has maintained a territory-wide video conferencing programme. The Department of Education has deployed video conferencing suites to all rural communities and to several Whitehorse schools. Video conferencing allows for schools to take advantage of teaching specialists in neighboring community schools. As of September 2010, three courses in mathematics and sciences are being offered locally by video conferencing to 13 students in four community schools (up from one student in 2009-10 and four students in 2008-09).

In addition, the Government of the Yukon has entered into agreements with a variety of course content providers in British Columbia and Alberta. The Yukon Department of Education’s *Annual Report* for the 2006-07 school year reported that Yukon students were able to take advantage of

courses offer through British Columbia's Open School, and that there were 141 students registered in 51 different courses (up from 87 students in 49 different courses during the 2005–06 school year). This agreement has been in place since January 2001, when the Department reported 35 students enrolled in a total of 110 correspondence courses and 15 students enrolled in eight online courses, with an overall 93% successful completion rate.

In the *Annual Report* for the 2008-09 school year, it was reported that the Yukon had agreements with eight distance education schools in British Columbia (the primary one continues to be the Northern British Columbia Distance Education School (NBCDES)), from B.C. Open School and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC). The agreement with the ADLC was to allow French students access to distributed learning through the *Centre francophone d'éducation à distance* (a French-language partner programme of the ADLC). In 2008-09, there were a total of 96 students enrolled in a total of 135 courses through these distance education schools.

In addition to the students enrolled in the synchronous video conferencing system, there were eight students enrolled in courses offered by the ADLC and 113 students enrolled in courses offered by the NBCDES in 2009-10.

Governance and Regulation

According to the *Education Act, 2002*:

30 (1) The deputy minister may provide for distance education courses of instruction on conditions prescribed by the guidelines established by the Minister.

(2) The Minister may charge fees for the provision of distance education courses as prescribed by the regulations. S.Y. 1989- 90, c.25, s.30.

The Department of Education is also governed by Memorandums of Understanding it has with each of the individual distance education schools. For example, the memorandum with the NBCDES states that the distance education school must provide the courses and all resources to students, along with other administrative and support items including the assignment of teacher advisors to students who are using distributed learning courses and the issuing report cards.

In addition, the Department requires that all schools that enrol students in any distributed learning programme assign a local teacher to monitor those students. This school-based teacher can range from a dedicated distributed learning facilitator to a simple assignment given to a teacher on top of their full-time classroom teaching duties. In most instances, these teachers are provided a block of time for their distributed learning supervisory and facilitating duties.

Finally, since the 2003-04 school year, distributed learning courses have been offered at no cost to students from Grade 1 to 12. The Department of Education covers the cost for their enrolment for all students up to the age of 21. However, the Department limits the number of distributed learning courses a student can be enrolled in at any given time to two courses. But there is no maximum number of courses a student can take, so once a student completes a distributed learning course they can enrol in another.