



4.5 Quebec (QC)

Pop: 8,155,334

K–12 Schools: 3,106

K–12 Students: 1,306,848

of K–12 DE Programmes: 3

of K–12 DE Students: 39,618

The use of correspondence distance education has been in place in Quebec since 1946. By 1996 this programme had evolved into the *Société de formation à distance des commissions scolaires du Québec* (SOFAD), a not-for-profit organization tasked with the development and production of distance learning materials that school boards utilize in their own district-based programmes for adult students. Since the creation of SOFAD, the province has also seen the development of several internet-based K–12 distance education programmes such as LEARN, *Écoles éloignées en réseau* (ÉER), etc. that have utilized a variety of asynchronous and synchronous technologies (e.g., learning management systems, virtual classrooms, video conferencing, etc.).

Distance Programmes

During the 2011–12 school year, SOFAD provided distance education course materials to 27,596 students. However, it is also estimated that SOFAD materials represent only about 60% of the materials used in distance general education (i.e., adult students who are 16 years or older in the school year). During the 2012–13 school year, LEARN provided a variety of distance learning opportunities to approximately 8522 English-language students from all nine English-speaking school boards. Finally, the ÉER had 296 teachers in 170 schools and have connected 3500 students through using Knowledge Forum and various synchronous tools.

Additionally, the Beauce-Etchemin School Board has offered summer distance courses for secondary students for the past 12 years. Further, during the summer of 2013, the Educational Consortium LLL (an amalgamation of the school boards of Laval, Laurentides and Lanaudière) began offering summer distance courses for some school disciplines.

Governance and Regulation

The Education Act in Quebec makes no reference to distance education. Since 1995 school boards have held the primary responsibility for distance education policies and regulations.