

## 3.5 Quebec (QC)

*Population: 8,214,672*

*Number of K-12 Schools: 3,130*

*Number of K-12 Students: 1,307,026*

*Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 4*

*Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: ~70,500*



### K-12 Distance Program

During the 2013-14 school year, *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 programs, served 56,608 students. It is estimated that SOFAD materials represent about 60% of the materials used in distance general education (i.e., adult students who are 16 years or older in the school year). The Leading English Education and Resource Network (LEARN) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a variety of distance learning opportunities to approximately 8,500 English-language students from all nine English-speaking school boards in the province. In addition close to 36,500 students from across the province benefit from blended learning asynchronous services provided by LEARN.

The *Écoles éloignées en réseau* (ÉÉR) has 392 teachers in 214 schools, and connected more than 4,600 students through use of Knowledge Forum and various synchronous tools. The Beauce-Etchemin School Board offered 16 remedial online courses, as well as nine full-time online courses. During the 2013-14 school year more than 700 students registered for the services (remedial and full-time).

### Governance and Regulation

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

However, private schools are regulated by a different Act (i.e., *Loi sur les établissements privés*), that contains provisions pertaining to online education. The Ministry has yet to approve an online initiative that meets the conditions stated in the *Loi sur les établissements privés*.