

3.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

Population: 43,672

Number of K-12 Schools: 49

Number of K-12 Students: 8367

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 1

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: 81



K-12 E-Learning Programs

At present the Beaufort Delta Education Council eLearning Program, which the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has been piloting over the past few years, is the primary provider of e-learning in the Northwest Territories. During the 2015-16 school year, 51 students were enrolled in one or more of the eight courses it offered. The territorial government has actually made the development of and support for this pilot project a priority over the next four years, with the published mandate of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment stating that “expanding the NWT distance learning pilot project to increase access for NWT senior secondary students in all communities” was one of his commitments (p. 2).

Additionally, there were still 31 students enrolled in distance learning courses offered through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre.

Governance and Regulation

The *Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 72). Since 2004, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre for Northwest Territories students to use their courses and, since 2010, the regional boards of education took on the funding of these courses. Finally, Section 3.3 of the *Northwest Territories School Handbook* outlines a series of requirements that schools must adhere to in order to participate in distance learning.

[Note that there is a new vignette from the Northwest Territories available at the <http://k12sotn.ca/nt/> focused on the Beaufort Delta Education Council eLearning program in partnership with Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture And Employment. In the vignette we learn about how the six-year-old program has continued to expand synchronous and asynchronous learning options to communities in some of the most remote regions of Canada, surpassing both pedagogical and technological challenges.]