

## 3.8 Saskatchewan (SK)

*Population: 1,150,632*

*Number of K-12 Schools: 798*

*Number of K-12 Students: 176,301*

*Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 16*

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



### K-12 E-Learning Programs

During the 2015-16 school year there were 13 school divisions and three other providers of distance education in Saskatchewan based on the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Course Repository (i.e., a centralized online course directory that is coordinated by the Ministry of Education). The Ministry 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 2015-16 school year, there were 9784 secondary course enrollments involving 5235 unique students and 6418 credits were earned. The Ministry also indicated there were students in kindergarten through grade 9 taking courses online through a variety of providers, but the Ministry did not collect data about their involvement. Based on the most recent responses to the annual individual program survey, 13 of the 16 e-learning programs report approximately 11,000 students engaged in some form of e-learning.

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 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, that intra- and inter-school division learning opportunities are available to students with local support provided, that distance learners have success rates that

are equivalent to students in traditional classroom environments, and that assistive technology and technical support is available to students with intensive needs and/or school personnel supporting them.

[Note that there is a new vignette from Saskatchewan available at the <http://k12sotn.ca/sk/> focused on the Sun West School Division. In this vignette, we hear how Sun West Distance Learning Centre supports educational assistants who supervise students taking online courses that has pushed student success rates up significantly. The Learning Centre has also supported the implementation of blended learning practices to activate three types of learning: online, blended and personalized.]