

3.11 Yukon (YT)

Population: 36,700

Number of K-12 Schools: 28

Number of K-12 Students: 5,122

Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 2

Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: 149



K-12 Distance Programs

While continuing to sign MOUs with the existing partner school districts in British Columbia and Alberta, Yukon Education is increasing the scope of distance and online program delivery through the Aurora Virtual School (AVS). In 2015-16 AVS managed courses for 57 grade 8-12 students taking at least one of the 35 online courses. Additionally, there were 55 full-time and 37 supplemental students enrolled in distributed learning programs from British Columbia. There was no information provided that the Francophone school utilized any distance learning provided from Alberta-based programs.

Yukon Education also supports and tracks blended learning programs. During the 2015-16 school year, blended learning was practiced in 16 of the territory's 30 schools, with a total of 653 students enrolled in a blended learning option (representing more than 20% of Yukon's grade 5-12 student population). Additionally, many Yukon teachers use informal blended learning approaches for which Yukon Education does not keep data.

Governance and Regulation

There have been no recent changes to the governance and regulation of K-12 distance education in the Yukon. The *Education Act, 2002* still allows the Minister of Education to provide distance education courses and charge fees for students to access those courses. However, the 2003 decision to provide these distributed learning courses at no cost to students up to the age of 21 continues to be followed.

Yukon Education also continues to govern the operation of individual distance education programs through individual Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that it signs with each individual program.

[Note that there is a new vignette from the Yukon available at the <http://k12sotn.ca/yk/> focused on the Aurora Virtual School. In the vignette we learn how the Yukon went from using out-sourced online programs to developing their own in-house program. Based on a researched mix of both synchronous and asynchronous activity, Aurora Virtual School has quickly become an exemplar, for online learning approaches, but most importantly for engaging remote students in learning opportunities successfully. Enrollment has doubled in the last year of the program, and the future for its success shines.]