



Population: 755,464
Number of K-12 Schools: 307
Number of K-12 Students: 98,906

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 2
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~10,200

Governance and Regulation

While there is no specific legislative language concerning K-12 distance, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development defines distance learning as the delivery of a course where the teacher responsible for assessment and instruction is in a location physically remote from the student. Online teachers communicate with the school to relay information about student progress.

Both the Anglophone and Francophone sectors of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development manage their own K-12 distance learning programs. These programs are funded through the Department directly, and are provided at no cost to schools or districts. The Department has published policy handbooks and web resources, different for both the English and French programs, which outline who can take distance courses, list the courses offered, describe the registration process, and outline duties of each role in the process.

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

The two distance learning programs service secondary students in New Brunswick in either of the province's two official languages. Both distance and blended courses use content created by the department and information is recorded in a learning portal, which records information about courses taken, school of origin and basic student demographic information. Some additional registrations, such as adult upgraders, are manually recorded, but not tracked with the same level of detail. During the 2017-18 school year, there were approximately 2,000 regular students enrolled in the Anglophone program, while there 1,239 students enrolled in the Francophone program.

While only representing 2%-3% of total distance enrollments, there is a continued increase in participation in the online First Nations language courses, with new intermediate level courses rolled out during the 2017-2018 school year. Also in the past year, the Department partnered with First Nation communities to make these language courses available to community members.

Additionally, there are a limited number of cases where schools will use school-to-school distance learning to connect small groups of students (e.g., a student needing Advanced

Calculus where it isn't offered). These enrolments are not tracked, but the Department will provide advice and support if requested.

Finally, the Anglophone sector has begun exploring opportunities for students in mentorship/virtual-coop. In a virtual coop placement, students work from the school (as opposed to an offsite placement at a worksite) and meet with mentors online a few times each week. This allows students in smaller, more rural communities to engage in coop opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Early feedback has been positive and requests for placements are on the increase.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development defines blended learning as the use of online and distance learning resources to support a teacher delivering a course onsite to students. Students continue to have access to the online material outside of class time for independent work.

The content that has been created for all of the distance learning courses is available to all teachers in the province as a professional learning resource. During the 2017-18 school year there were approximately 3,000 English and approximately 4,000 French face-to-face students registered in the learning management system using online courses in a more blended learning model under the direction of their local school's classroom teachers.

Also, teachers have the option to use distance learning courses as a professional learning resource – where the teacher has direct access to online course content, but students do not. Approximately 170 teachers enrolled in courses in this capacity during the 2017-18 school year.

Finally, the grade 9 and 10 Broad Based Technology courses have provided a blended learning website since 2007. Beyond the number of page views, there is minimal tracking of the usage of these resources.

It should be noted that the Department only tracks participation in the blended learning courses it provides centrally. Other blended learning solutions implemented by teachers and schools are not tracked.