

3.1 Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)

Population: 526,977

Number of K-12 Schools: 262

Number of K-12 Students: 66,323

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 1

Number of K-12 E-Learning: ~8,000



Governance and Regulation

There is no language in the *Education Act* related to K-12 distance education. Historically, distance education was delivered directly by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development through the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI). However, in April 2017 the operations of the CDLI were placed under the direct authority of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) as a part of the government's *Flatter Leaner Management Initiative*. As the transfer took place late in the school year, the details concerning that transfer and subsequent implementation of the distance learning group have yet to be determined.

Prior to this transfer, the CDLI received a block funding allocation from the provincial government that funded the administration, all teacher and staff salaries, course development activities, Internet/network connectivity costs for schools, K-12 technology integration for the provincial K-12 school system. The CDLI also purchased and deployed all hardware and software required for the delivery of its online learning program, including all required computer equipment, videoconferencing equipment and other learning resources that enhance the distance learning experience. Finally, the CDLI outlined a number of conditions that participating schools must accommodate in order to participate in the distance education program (e.g., accommodation of the school's schedule to the CDLI's timetable, the designation of one or more teachers or staff as mediating teachers or members of the mediating team, etc.). However, it should be noted that the NLESD is still working through these practices and policies, many of which will not be finalized until the completion of a full school year (i.e., 2017-18).

Distance education was traditionally tracked using an enrollment system housed in the CDLI portal. However, this may change given the recent changes noted above. Registration systems are part of the ongoing discussions within the district. Historically, this data was available through the *K-12 School Profile System*.

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) is the sole provider of K-12 distance education in the province. During the 2016-17 school year there were 968 students with 1,764 course

registrations in 38 different courses representing 103 different schools. Distance learning at the K-12 level is delivered using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous tools, with synchronous instruction being the primary method.

The CDLI also offered online course reviews for students in both online and blended contexts for a variety of courses throughout the secondary level. The reviews utilized recorded instruction and solutions to sample questions related to provincial learning outcomes.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

While blended learning occurs primarily at the post-secondary level in Newfoundland and Labrador, in the past the CDLI allowed any provincial educator (i.e., including classroom teachers) to register in their portal and use the CDLI's asynchronous course materials with their face-to-face students. While the CDLI did track the number of educators that are registered in the portal, an account in the system does not necessarily mean that the person uses the resources in their classroom. During the 2015-16 school year there were 7,267 teacher registrations and 261 principal registrations in the CDLI portal. If each teacher that has access to the CDLI portal used this material with a single class of 15 students it would represent approximately 109,000 students (or almost twice the total number of K-12 students in the province). Realistically, given that the majority of the CDLI content is focused on the secondary grades, it is safe to assume that at best no more than a half of the province's approximately 16,000 high school students are engaged in blended learning.