

### 3.13 Nunavut (NU)

*Population: 35,591*

*Number of K-12 Schools: 42*

*Number of K-12 Students: 9,728*

*Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 0*

*Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~50*



#### **Governance and Regulation**

The *Education Act, 1999* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 75). The Department of Education defines distance learning as involving the use of appropriate technologies to provide learning experiences for students who are physically separated from their instructor for the majority of the learning process. Distance learning can be used to provide access to courses or programs that:

- cannot be offered locally because of a lack of teacher expertise or sufficient student numbers;
- do not fit into a student’s timetable;
- enhance or enrich regular classroom instruction; and/or
- can be accessed as a part of a home-schooling program or by students with prolonged illnesses.

There are also territorial agreements between Nunavut and various distance learning providers, for example the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC).

Distance education and/or online learning is not funded differently than traditional brick-and-mortar education. However, territorial students who are officially registered as part of a home-schooling program are eligible to receive up to \$1,000 of expense reimbursement for distance education programs to cover the costs of registration fees, books, and equipment.

Finally, the development of a Ministerial Directive regarding access to and delivery of distance education has been underway since 2012.

#### **K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity**

The Department of Education tracks student enrollment information through its agreements with distance learning providers. For example, the ADLC grants the Department access to their online tracking site to verify students’ final marks. During the 2016-17 school year there were 32 students enrolled in courses offered by the ADLC.

Additionally, an unknown number of students attending six schools in five communities access some programming delivered through Connected North (i.e., an Ontario-based program that offers academic and trade-based courses).

Finally, a Nunavut-based distance education program is currently under review by the Department of Education. The Department is examining how to best facilitate online distance education in classrooms across the territory and the costs associated with this delivery. The Department's ability to deliver distance education is restricted by the lack of bandwidth capacity, the inconsistencies of availability and infrastructure across the territory.

### **K-12 Blended Learning Activity**

At present, the Department of Education is not involved in any blended learning initiatives.