

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: 1,028



Governance and Regulation

The *Education Act, 2002* allows the Minister of Education to provide distance education courses and charge fees for students to access those courses. Distance education is defined as a program of study or course taken by a student where the content and resources are sent to the student to work through independently of a school.

For the most part, distance education is funded in the same manner as brick-and-mortar education. However, parents may be eligible for reimbursement of essential school resources related to distance education and/or online learning as determined by the Deputy Minister.

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

Aurora Virtual School is the only online school in the territory. As a public school, it reports all aspects directly to the Department of Education the same as any traditional school. During the 2016-17 school year, Aurora Virtual School enrolled 41 students in one or more of the 35 online courses it offered.

In addition, the Yukon still accesses programming from four distance learning schools in British Columbia for either in single courses or for full-time studies. During the 2016-17 school year, these four schools delivered 58 single courses to 41 students. Further, there were 16 full-time students in programs offering kindergarten to grade three; 26 full-time students in programming for grades four to nine; and eight full-time students in programs for grades 10 to 12.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

Yukon Education defines blended learning as a formal education program in which a student learns in part through digitally managed content, instruction and feedback and in part through face-to-face group activities at a supervised physical location away from home and with some element(s) of student control over time, place, path and/or pace.

The Department funds a learning management system (i.e., *Moodle*) and digital content, which is made available to each of the territory's schools. The Department also funds a portion of a Technology

Assisted Learning Consultant whose responsibilities are dedicated to supporting blended learning and provision of various hardware, software, and other supports.

Yukon Education uses the data from the *Moodle* learning management system to formally track the number of students who are enrolled in at least one blended learning course. During the 2016-17 school year there were 830 students from 21 of the territory's 30 schools involved in K-12 blended learning. This figure represents more than 25% of Yukon's grade 5-12 student population (up from approximately 20% over the previous year).