State of the Nation:
K-12 E-Learning in Canada
2018 Edition

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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

This issue of the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* report marks its 11th year, and the sixth year of the Canadian eLearning Network's (CANeLearn) support of this research. This report follows the relatively extensive tenth anniversary edition and the annual report has undergone significant changes. This 11th issue describes changes that have occurred in relation to the governance and e-learning activity over the past year in the provinces and territories. The full jurisdictional profiles can be found on the report website at https://k12sotn.ca/data/. Additionally, any brief issue papers and vignettes received are simply introduced or referred to in this report, but are presented in full on the website. The online version of the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* will continue to be a more comprehensive resource for e-learning in each jurisdiction.

While there have been no major changes in the nature of regulation governing K-12 distance and online learning activity in distance or online learning remains relatively stable. The 263,686 students or 5.1% proportion of students engaged in K-12 distance and online learning across the country was a slight decrease in the overall participation level from the previous two school years yet represents only approximately a half a percent proportion difference and, from a proportional standpoint, the number of K-12 students engaged in distance and online learning has remained relatively steady over the past six years. Yet at the same time estimates of blended learning activity have shown a sharp increase. However, estimates of blended learning continue to be a best effort attempt at trying to quantify this type of e-learning activity.

The *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* report, and its accompanying publications on its project website, provides critical information and insight into how Canadian educational authorities and governments are integrating technology-supported approaches to prepare students for today's economy and a future society in which the use of technology will be ubiquitous. This report and website provide a benchmark for educators and offers background, guidance, and ideas for the improvement of policy and practice in online and blended learning. The Canadian eLearning Network is a proud supporter and partner of this research, its publication, and the dissemination of its findings and supporting research publications.

1. Introduction

This report details the results of the eleventh annual *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* study, which continues to be conducted in partnership with the Canadian eLearning Network (CANeLearn). As this is the first report following the tenth anniversary edition, the physical report has undergone significant changes. While the standard jurisdictional profiles (i.e., the annual update of activity and nature of governance for each province and territory, as well as for First Nations, Métis and Inuit under federal jurisdiction) will continue to be released in full on the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* website, this report will only describe any changes that have occurred in relation to the governance and e-learning activity over the past year. Additionally, any brief issue papers and vignettes received are simply introduced or referred to in this report, but are presented on the website. The *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* website can be accessed at: https://k12sotn.ca/

1.1 Methodology

The methodology utilized to collect the data for the annual study included:

- a survey that was sent to each of the Ministries of Education,
- follow-up interviews to clarify or expand on any of the responses contained in the survey,
- an analysis of documents from the Ministry of Education, often available in online format, and
- follow-up interviews with key stakeholders in many of the jurisdictions.

In addition to the data collection for the provincial, territorial, and federal profiles, the researchers also undertook an individual program survey that was sent to contacts from all of the K-12 distance, online, and blended programs across Canada identified by the researchers. The survey was sent to all contacts on six occasions from May through October. The response rate by jurisdiction is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Individual program survey responses

	Total Number of Programs	Number of Programs Responding	Response Rate
NL	1	0	0%
NS	2	0	0%
PE	0	-	-
NB	2	1	50%
QC	5	4	80%
ON	81	9	11%
MB	38	3	8%
SK	21	5	24%
AB	32	12	38%
BC	80	20	25%
YT	2	1	50%
NT	1	0	0%
NU	0	-	-
Federal	5	3	60%
Total	**270**	**56**	**21%**

Data as of the time the printed report was submitted for publication (K-12 e-learning programs can update their information at any time).

The most recent responses that the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* researchers have received are included in the provincial, territorial and federal profiles located at https://k12sotn.ca/data/

A complete description of the methodology, including all of the instruments, is provided at https://k12sotn.ca/about/

1.2 How to Read This Document

The goal of the 2018 *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* report is to provide an overview of the state of K-12 e-learning in Canada. K-12 e-learning is broadly defined to include all forms of K-12 distance and online learning, as well as blended learning that may occur within the context of a face-to-face setting. The 2018 *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* report is different than previous reports. The report continues to begin with a brief description of new brief issue papers, followed by a national overview of K-12 distance, online, and blended learning in Canada.

As noted above, this report differs from traditional *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* reports in that it does not provide a full discussion of the nature of regulation and level of activity for each provincial, territorial, and federal jurisdiction. Instead the profile in this report simply provides a brief update of any changes or new developments in each province, territory, and federally. The full jurisdictional profiles continue to be available at https://k12sotn.ca/data/

It is our goal that the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* annual published report will be a much shorter version of the updated changes that have occurred in each jurisdiction from the previous year. However, the online version of the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* will continue to be a more comprehensive resource for e-learning in each jurisdiction.

2. National Overview

Eleven years following the publication of the first *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* report, there continues to be a great deal of consistency in types of K-12 distance, online, and/or blended learning programs that exist throughout the country.

Single provincial program

Primarily district-based programs

Combination of provincial and district-based programs

Use online learning programs from other provinces
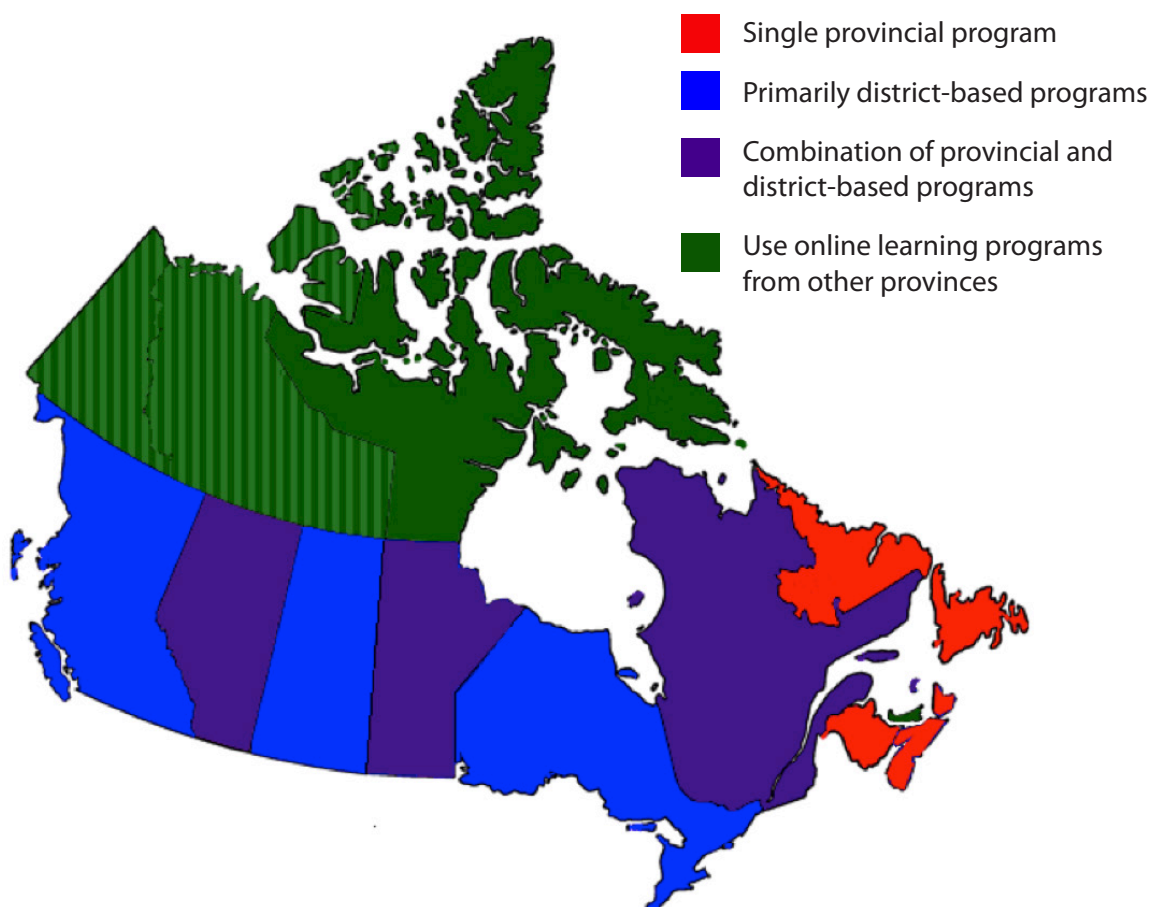
Students from all thirteen provinces and territories continue to participate in K-12 distance, online, and blended learning opportunities. Most jurisdictions continue to have either primarily district-based programs or district-based programs and provincial programs. The exception to this trend is in Atlantic Canada and Northern Canada. In Atlantic Canada, the dominant model is the use of a single province-wide program, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, which does not have any distance or online learning program.

All of the Canadian territories utilized distance and/or online learning programs from southern provinces, while the Yukon and Northwest Territories both continue to develop their own internal pilot programs.

Nature of K-12 E-Learning Regulation

There have been no major changes in the nature of regulation governing K-12 distance and online learning.

Table 2. Summary of the K-12 distance and online learning regulation by jurisdiction

	Legislation	Policy Handbook	Agreements	Memorandum of Understanding
NL				
NS	✓			
PE	✓			
NB		✓		
QC	✓			
ON		✓	✓	
MB	✓	✓		✓
SK				
AB	✓	✓		
BC	✓		✓	
YT	✓			✓
NT	✓	✓		✓
NU	✓			✓
Federal				

As a reminder, while many provinces and territories continue to have some reference to distance education in the *Education Act* or *Schools Act*, in most instances these references simply define distance education or gives the Minister of Education in that province or territory the ability to create, approve or regulate K-12 distance education. Many of these references have also become antiquated given the present realities of K-12 distance and online learning. The only provinces where this is not the case are Nova Scotia (e.g., collective agreement signed between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union) and British Columbia (e.g., section 3.1 and section 75 (4.1) of the *School Act, 2006*, as well as section 8.1 of the *Independent School Act, 2006*).

The most dominant trend affecting the regulation of K-12 distance and online learning is that approximately a third of all jurisdictions use policy handbooks to regulate K-12 distance and online learning; sometimes in combination with a formal agreement or contract.

The main difference in the regulation of K-12 e-learning comes from Quebec, where a 2017 amendment to the *Loi sur l'instruction publique* has allowed the Minister to develop and implement distance education pilot projects (although there have been no pilot projects created thus far).

Level of K-12 E-Learning Activity

The total K-12 population in Canada for 2017-18 was approximately 5.2 million students. Based on actual and estimated enrolment data, the number of students engaged in K-12 e-learning was 927,393 or 17.8% of the overall K-12 student population (see Table 3). The overall e-learning activity was based on the number of K-12 students engaged in both distance and online learning, as well as blended learning.

Table 3. Summary of the K-12 e-learning activity by jurisdiction for 2017-18

	# of K-12 students	# enrolled in e-learning	Percent involvement
NL	66,323	~9,000	13.6%
NS	119,383	~98,000	82.1%
PE	20,131	56	0.1%
NB	98,906	~10,200	10.3%
QC	1,003,322	~51,800	5.2%
ON	2,020,301	~597,000	29.6%
MB	203,515	~6,398	3.1%
SK	182,173	~14,000	7.7%
AB	719,889	~63,000	8.8%
BC	635,037	~75,000	11.8%
YT	5,662	1043	18.4%
NT	8,449	~193	0.2%
NU	10,107	~40	0.1%
Federal	~107,000	1,663	1.6%
Total	**5,200,198**	**927,393**	**17.8%**

The highest level of e-learning activity by raw numbers was Ontario (based on recent estimates), but, by proportion of students, Nova Scotia. However, these figures were largely due to estimates of blended learning activity based on enrolments in the provincial learning management systems. The level of participation in most jurisdictions represents a relatively consistent rate (i.e., less than 2% difference), with the exception of Nova Scotia (see Table 4).

Table 4. Summary of estimated K-12 e-learning activity over the past two years

	# students engaged in e-learning			
	2016-17		**2017-18**	
NL	~8,000	12.1%	~9,000	13.6%
NS	~54,000	45.2%	~98,000	82.1%
PE	89	0.4%	56	0.1%
NB	9,179	9.3%	~10,200	10.3%
QC	~47,900	4.8%	~51,800	5.2%
ON	~559,000	27.9%	~597,000	29.6%
MB	8,941	4.9%	~6,398	3.1%
SK	~8,500	4.8%	~14,000	7.7%
AB	~50,000	7.1%	~63,000	8.8%
BC	~63,350	10.0%	~75,000	11.8%
YT	1028	20.1%	1043	18.4%
NT	79	0.9%	~193	0.2%
NU	~40	0.4%	~40	0.1%
Federal	1,927	1.8%	1,663	1.6%
Total	**812,033**	**15.7%**	**927,393**	**17.8%**

As Table 4 illustrates there was a significant increase in the number and proportion of e-learning students in Nova Scotia, largely due to the potential number of students engaged in blended learning.

Based on actual and estimated enrolment data, the number of students engaged in K-12 distance and online learning only was 263,686 or 5.1% of the overall K-12 student population (see Table 5). It is important to note that the ~ symbol below means that one or more approximations were provided during the data collection.

Table 5. Summary of the K-12 distance and online learning activity by jurisdiction for 2017-18

	# of K-12 students	# enrolled in distance/ online learning	Percent involvement
NL	66,323	1,233	1.9%
NS	119,383	~2,700	2.3%
PE	20,131	56	0.1%
NB	98,906	~3,239	3.4%
QC	1,003,322	30,366	3.0%
ON	2,020,301	~82,000	4.1%
MB	203,515	~6,398	3.1%
SK	182,173	7,738	4.2%
AB	719,889	~63,000	8.8%
BC	635,037	65,556	10.3%
YT	5,662	136	2.4%
NT	8,449	93	1.1%
NU	10,107	~40	0.1%
Federal	~107,000	1,131	1.1%
Total	**5,200,198**	**263,686**	**5.1%**

As in past years, British Columbia has the highest level of reported activity in distance and online courses followed closely by Alberta. Although it should be noted the number of students in Alberta was based on an estimate. The data collected indicated that there were 80,359 course enrolments, but there was no data on unique student enrolments. In previous editions of this report we have assumed that approximately 20% of the students took a second distance or online course, which is how we calculated the figure of ~63,000. If one third of the students enrolled in a second course it would decrease the figure to ~60,000 students. If 10% of students enrolled in three courses and 25% of students enrolled in a second course, the level of participation would be under 49,000 students.

The 263,686 students or 5.1% proportion of students engaged in K-12 distance and online learning across the country was a decrease in the overall participation level from the previous two school years (see Table 6).

Table 6. Summary of estimated K-12 distance and online learning activity over the past three years

	# students engaged in distance and online learning		
	2015-16	**2016-17**	**2017-18**
NL	1,105	968	1,233
NS	~2,500	~2,600	~2,700
PE	89	89	56
NB	2,527	3,262	~3,239
QC	~41,000	~42,600	30,366
ON	~94,500	~91,000	~82,000
MB	~8,000	8,941	~6,398
SK	~12,000	~8,500	7,738
AB	~60,000	~50,000	~63,000
BC	69,735	57,046	65,556
YT	149	189	136
NT	81	79	93
NU	325	~40	~40
Federal	1,390	1,289	1,131
Total	**293,401**	**277,603**	**263,686**

While there has been a decrease of approximately 30,000 students over the past three years, this represents only approximately a half a percent proportion difference in the students engaged in K-12 distance and online learning across the country (see Table 7 below).

Table 7. K-12 distance and online learning student enrolment in Canada

Year	# of distance education students	% of students engaged in distance education
1999-2000*	~25,000	0.5%
2008-09	~140,000	2.7%
2009-10	150,000-175,000	2.9%-3.4%
2010-11	207,096	4.2%
2011-12	245,252	4.9%
2012-13	284,963	5.2%
2013-14	290,185	5.4%
2014-15	311,648	6.0%
2015-16	293,401	5.7%
2016-17	277,603	5.4%
2017-18	263,686	5.1%

* (Canadian Teachers Federation, 2000)

From a proportional standpoint, the number of K-12 students engaged in distance and online learning has remained relatively steady over the past six years (i.e., within 1%). Project researchers continue to believe that this decrease primarily represents the variability in the accuracy of data collection (i.e., six of the 14 jurisdictions were approximations), along with some actual shift from distance and online learning to more blended learning contexts.

While blended learning is a much more recent development within the K-12 system, the best estimates that are available indicate that it is increasing significantly. Based on mainly estimated enrolment data, the number of students engaged in K-12 blended learning was 665,134 or 12.8% of the overall K-12 student population (see Table 8).

Table 8. Summary of the K-12 blended learning activity by jurisdiction for 2017-18

	# of K-12 students	# enrolled in blended learning	Percent involvement
NL	66,323	~9,000	13.6%
NS	119,383	97,575	81.7%
PE	20,131	-	-
NB	98,906	~7,000	7.1%
QC	1,003,322	~21,300	2.1%
ON	2,020,301	~515,000	25.5%
MB	203,515	-	-
SK	182,173	~11,500	6.3%
AB	704,813	~3071	0.1%
BC	635,037	~9,500	1.5%
YT	5,662	907	16.0%
NT	8,449	~100	1.2%
NU	10,107	-	-
Federal	~107,000	531	0.1%
Total	**5,200,198**	**665,134**	**12.8%**

The blended learning activity in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories are based on enrolments in the provincial learning management system – all of which were provided by the Ministries. While the enrolments in a learning management system are as good an indicator of e-learning activity as any other, it may be misleading. For example, Ontario reported that there were approximately 565,000 unique student logins in the learning management system. This figure includes the approximately 50,000 students engaged in online learning courses, which researchers have removed from the blended learning figure above. However, it is possible that 35,000 of these students are taking one or two courses in an online format, and one or more of their face-to-face teachers are also using the provincial learning management system and content in a blended learning context.

Similarly, while Nova Scotia reports that *Google Apps for Education (G-Suite)* is now available to all students, teachers, and administrators province-wide and there are 97,575 or approximately 81% of all students that have accounts," that doesn't mean all 97,575 students, teachers, and administrators are actually using those accounts. Having said that, the availability of blended learning tools and content is likely a reasonable predictor of the potential for blended learning.

Table 9 below illustrates the blended learning that this report has estimated over the past three years and the basis for that estimation.

Table 9. Summary of estimated K-12 blended learning activity over the past three years

	# students engaged in blended learning		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NL	10,905*	~8,000*	~9,000*
NS	~54,000*	~54,000*	97,575*
PE	-	-	-
NB	4171**	5,917**	~7,000**
QC	44,500**	~5,300***	~21,300***
ON	237,930*	~468,000*	~515,000*
MB	-	24***	-
SK	-	1895***	~11,500***
AB	-	1463***	~3071***
BC	6578***	~6,300***	~9,500***
YT	653**	830**	907**
NT	-	-	~100**
NU	-	-	-
Federal	***	638**	531*
Total	358,737	657,985	664,134

*Estimate based on learning management system data
**Data provided by Ministry
***Data extracted from individual program survey response

It is important to underscore that these estimates of blended learning activity continue to be a best effort attempt at trying to quantify this type of e-learning activity. Beyond the issues of whether teachers or students enrolled in provincial learning management systems were engaged in blended learning, this data largely represents information obtained from programs that were primarily engaged in distance and/or online learning (and simply also involved in blended learning). For example, based on the most recent individual program survey data it was reported that:

- Manitoba: 1 of 10 programs reported students engaged in blended learning
- Saskatchewan: 5 of 14 programs reported students engaged in blended learning
- Alberta: 5 of 17 programs reported students engaged in blended learning
- British Columbia: 20 of 42 programs reported students engaged in blended learning

Yet, for these four provinces the researchers for this study have information from only distance and/or online programs. While we can report that K-12 blended learning is growing (and appears to be quite significant in some jurisdictions), we also believe that the estimation of blended learning activity in this report does not begin to scratch the surface of the true level of blended learning in most jurisdictions.

2.1 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: ~9,000

e-Learning Updates

There have been no significant regulatory changes in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. NLESD has a memorandum of understanding with both the *Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador* and the school district representing the Mi'kmaq (i.e., a province-wide First Nations district) to deliver e-learning courses to their students through the CDLI.

Based on figures from the *K-12 School Profile System*, there were 1,233 students representing 2,166 course registrations in 41 different courses from 118 different schools. Other e-learning participation levels are still not formally tracked by the province, however as every teacher has access to CDLI portal and its course resources, there is potential for the growth of blended learning in the province.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/nl/

2.2 Nova Scotia (NS)

Population: 942,926
Number of K-12 Schools: 395
Number of K-12 Students: 119,383

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 2
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~98,000

e-Learning Updates

There have been no significant regulatory changes in the province of Nova Scotia. The *Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements (2017) Act* included updates to the Teachers Provincial Agreement and specifically to Article 49 to recognize the changes and advances in technology and future possibilities through learning online.

Based on figures provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, there were approximately 1,600 students enrolled in offerings from the Nova Scotia Virtual School and approximately 1,100 students enrolled in courses offered through the correspondence studies program. Additionally, there were 97,575 or approximately 81% of all students with accounts in various blended learning tools offered by the Department.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/ns/

> **Citizenship 9**
>
> *Nova Scotia launched a new course for all schools, Citizenship 9, that incorporates inquiry-based and service learning through an online and blended learning approach. All course materials are available in the provincial learning management system and an online e-book. Teachers from classroom-based schools and the online virtual school have full access to all course resources supporting the growth of both online and blended learning in the province. The focus on digital citizenship is part of an inquiry approach to learning that is fully integrated into the new provincial curriculum. See more at* https://k12sotn.ca/ns/citizenship-9/

2.3 Prince Edward Island (PE)

Population: 145,211
Number of K-12 Schools: 63
Number of K-12 Students: 20,131

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 0
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: 56

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of Prince Edward Island.

There are still no distance and/or online learning programs in the province, and students continue to enrol in programs offered from New Brunswick. Based on figures provided by the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, during the 2017-18 there were 43 students enrolled in English-language distance education and 13 students enrolled in French-language distance education programs. Other e-learning participation levels are still not formally tracked by the province.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/pe/

2.4 New Brunswick (NB)

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

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of New Brunswick. Based on figures provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, during the 2017-18 there were approximately 2,000 regular students enrolled in the Anglophone program, while there 1,239 students enrolled in the Francophone program. Similarly, 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.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/nb/

2.5 Quebec (QC)

Population: 8,263,600
Number of K-12 Schools: 3,102
Number of K-12 Students: 1,003,322

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 4
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~42,000

e-Learning Updates

There has been one change in the K-12 e-learning programs operating in the province. With an amendment to the *Loi sur l'instruction publique* that allowed the Minister to approve pilot projects to test distance education. To date, no distance education pilots have been approved. Based on figures provided by the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*, along with the most recent responses to the individual program survey, there were approximately 31,000 students enrolled in distance and/or online learning courses during the 2017-18 school year. Similarly, there were approximately 11,000 students enrolled in formal blended learning opportunities.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/qc/

2.6 Ontario (ON)

Population: 13,537,994
Number of K-12 Schools: 4,850
Number of K-12 Students: 2,020,301

Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: ~81
Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: ~570,000

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of Ontario.

Based on figures provided by the Ministry of Education, there were approximately 50,000 students engaged in online courses offered by one of the district school board eLearning programs. In the 2017-18 school year, there were approximately 565,000 unique student logins in the provincial learning management system from classroom-based or online students, but approximately 50,000 of these were students were engaged in completing eLearning courses. Other e-learning participation levels remain consistent.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/on/

2.7 Manitoba (MB)

Population: 1,282,000
Number of K-12 Schools: 808
Number of K-12 Students: 203,515

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: ~38
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~6,398

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of Manitoba.

Each school division in the province continues to participate in one or more of the three distance education program options. The ISO (i.e., print) continued to offer 58 courses in English and 12 courses in French for grades 9-12 students. During the 2017-18 school year, there were approximately 2,970 active students enrolled and 1,212 credits issued. The TMO, which is managed by rural school divisions through the TMO Consortium in partnership with Manitoba Education and Training, offered 21 English courses for grades 9-12 students.

During the 2017-18 school year, there were 428 course enrolments from 21 different schools from eight different rural or northern school divisions/groups.

Finally, the WBC Option provided access to 44 courses in English and 4 courses in French. During the 2017-18 school year, there were approximately 4,000 users, including at estimated 3,000 students, in this option.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/mb/

2.8 Saskatchewan (SK)

Population: 1,171,240
Number of K-12 Schools: 747
Number of K-12 Students: 182,173

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 15
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~14,000

e-Learning Updates

While the delivery of distance education, online learning, and blended learning in the province continues to be guided by the Saskatchewan Technology in Education Framework (TEF), the Ministry is developing a policy for in-province distance learning, including provincial definitions for distance education, online learning, and blended learning. The Ministry will seek input from sector partners before finalizing the policy.

The Ministry gathers data for students taking online distance education courses that count towards completion of a secondary diploma at the 10, 20, 30 levels (i.e., grades 10 to 12). During the 2017-18 school year, there were 13,305 course enrolments involving 7,738 unique secondary-level students with 8,698 credits earned. Based on the most recent responses to the annual *Individual Program Survey*, 13 of the 15 e-learning programs collectively reported approximately 11,500 students engaged in some form of distance and/or online learning, and based on five responses to that survey at least 2,900 students were engaged in some form of blended learning.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/sk/

2.9 Alberta (AB)

Population: 4,286,134
Number of K-12 Schools: 2,388
Number of K-12 Students: 719,889

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 32
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: *80,359
*enrolments, not students*

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of Alberta.

Based on the information in the provincial tracking system, during the 2017-18 school year there were 372 schools that indicated on their operational forms that they had students enrolled in an online program. Additionally, 55 schools used the virtual course enrolment code, 13 schools used the print-based distance education course enrolment code, and 69 schools used the online learning student enrolment code. Overall, there were a total of 11,897 students coded as online learning, as well as 8,634 print-based distance education course enrolments and 71,725 virtual course enrolments for the 2016-17 school year.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/ab/

Moodle HUB Consortium

The grassroots Moodle HUB consortium continues to operate as a sharing platform for Moodle-based courses in the province and as a growing group of educators supporting course sharing within Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. While lacking any formal leadership, the group sharing often goes beyond that of the specific learning management system to include sharing of online pedagogies. Read more at https://k12sotn.ca/ab/alberta-moodle-hub-group/. Members of the group are also becoming involved with the newly-formed Western Canadian Learning Network (see https://k12sotn.ca/bc/collaboration-at-the-forefront-of-the-western-canadian-learning-network-society/ for a description of this emerging consortium).
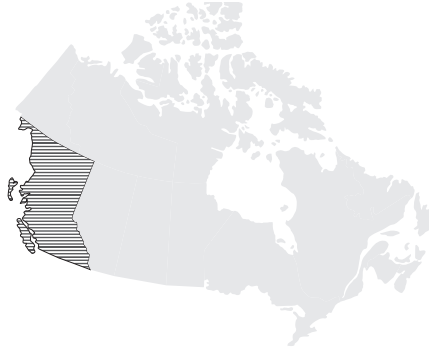
2.10 British Columbia (BC)

Population: 4,683,139
Number of K-12 Schools: 1930
Number of K-12 Students: 635,037

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 74
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~75,000

e-Learning Updates

There have been no regulatory changes in the province of BC, although the province launched a formal review of distributed learning (distance education) in the province. The authors of this report were invited to contribute the review, which has yet to be published as of publication of this print report.

In 2017-18 there were 58 district-level public distributed learning schools and 16 independent distributed learning schools that enrolled approximately 65,556 unique students in one or more courses. As part of the distributed learning review, the Ministry's survey to all 74 distributed learning schools in the province determined that 39 of the 58 public distributed learning schools and 13 of the 16 independent distributed learning schools offered some form of blended learning. Additionally, based on recent responses to the annual Individual Program Survey, enrolment in these blended learning programs was approximately 9,500 students for the 2017-18 school year.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/bc/

> **Western Canadian Learning Network**
>
> *The Western Canadian Learning Network, a consortium of over 50 school districts and divisions providing 70 textbook-less online courses for use by distributed learning schools in British Columbia, Alberta, the Yukon, and now Saskatchewan. This expanded mandate grew out of its founding British Columbia Learning Network group base, and the western Canadian consortium is engaging in not only content development specific to British Columbia and Alberta new curriculum, but creating online content and digital resources and brokering licenses to support technology-based learning for all environments. See* https://k12sotn.ca/bc/collaboration-at-the-forefront-of-the-western-canadian-learning-network-society/ *for a description of this emerging consortium.*

2.11 Yukon (YT)

Population: 38,459
Number of K-12 Schools: 33
Number of K-12 Students: 5,662

Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 2
Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: 1043

e-Learning Updates

While there have been no regulatory changes in the territory, Yukon Education continues to support territorial-based online and blended learning programs and is engaged in several memorandums of understanding with distance learning providers in other jurisdictions.

Aurora Virtual School is the only online school in the territory and during the 2017-18 school year, the school enrolled 87 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 2017-18 school year, these four schools delivered courses to 49 students. Finally, 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 2017-18 school year, there were 907 students from 18 of the territory's 30 schools involved in K-12 blended learning. This figure represents 28% of Yukon's grade 5-12 student population.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/yk/

> **Aurora Virtual School**
>
> *A brief description of the 5-year-old Aurora Virtual School (AVS) program can be found online at https://k12sotn.ca/yk/a-fraser-aurora-virtual-school-teacher/. AVS has succeeded in providing course options to rural and remote secondary school learners using both synchronous and asynchronous methods. This success has led to the launch of a K-7 program for the next school year.*

2.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

Population: 44,381
Number of K-12 Schools: 49
Number of K-12 Students: 8,449

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 1
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~193

e-Learning Updates

While there have been no changes in the regulatory framework, the Northwest Territories is halfway through implementing a renewal of its system of education through a process called *Education Renewal and Innovation* (ERI). One commitment under ERI is to improve the learning experience of students in its smallest communities, regardless of geographical location and the territorial government has made the development of and support for building its internal distance learning capacity a priority.

As part of this initiative, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has partnered with the Beaufort Delta Education Council to expand the Northern Distance Learning program to small community high schools. Students in eight schools access their course material online and during the 2017-18 school year 52 students were enrolled in NDL. The Department also reported approximately 100 students engaged in blended learning during the 2017-18 school year. In addition, there were approximately 41 students enrolled in distance learning courses offered through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre during the 2017-18 school year.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/nt/

Northern Distance Learning Program

A profile of the ERI's Northern Distance Learning (NDL) program for small community high schools can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/nt/nwt-northern-distance-learning-program/. The vignette provides an overview of its formation and expansion, with projections of expansion to eleven schools in over half of the boards of education in the Northwest Territories, and hopes that the program will be available in all 20 high schools by the 2020-2021 school year.

2.13 Nunavut (NV)

Population: 35,944
Number of K-12 Schools: 44
Number of K-12 Students: 10,107

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 0
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~40

e-Learning Updates

There were no changes in the regulatory framework for Nunavut. The Department of Education tracks student enrolment information through its agreements with distance learning providers and the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) grants the Department access to their online tracking site to verify students' final marks.

During the 2017-18 school year, there were 24 students enrolled in courses offered by the ADLC. Additionally, an unknown number of students attending twelve schools in seven communities access some programming delivered through Contact North (i.e., an Ontario-based program that offers academic and trade-based courses).

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/nv/

2.14 Federal

Population: 1,400,685
Number of K-12 Schools: 564
Number of K-12 Students: ~107,000

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 5
Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: 1,663

e-Learning Updates

There were no changes in the regulatory framework for federal e-learning programs. Based on the FN nominal role, the federal government estimates that there were 1,042 students registered for distance education, 63 students registered for home schooled (online sourced); and 26 students registered for virtual (Internet) courses. In addition, 201 students were registered for blended classroom and distance education, and 331 students registered for blended classroom and virtual (Internet) courses.

The full provincial profile can be found at https://k12sotn.ca/fnmi/

3. References

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4. Call for Sponsors

2019 State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada Study

Canadian eLearning Network (CANeLearn) is seeking funding for the 2019 K-12 e-learning study of Canada. If your organization is interested in participating through sponsorship by supporting the tenth anniversary edition of the *State of the Nation Study: K-12 E-Learning in Canada*, please contact Michael Barbour, principal investigator at mkbarbour@gmail.com, or Randy LaBonte, Chief Executive Officer of CANeLearn at rlabonte@CANeLearn.net.

Your participation as a sponsor helps support more widespread participation from online and blended programs across the country in the K-12 e-learning in Canada project and is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate your organization's interest in and commitment to supporting online and blended learning. Your company or organization will be recognized for its support of virtual schools seeking to effectively expand educational options for K-12 students across Canada.

CANeLearn is a new Canadian registered not-for-profit society. CANeLearn's mission is to provide leadership that champions student success by supporting organizations and educators involved in online and blended learning through networking, collaboration and research opportunities.

Please review the sponsor benefits and opportunities for the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* study:

- Recognition in all post-study press releases, presentations and distribution of information;
- Opportunity to provide input into the program survey;
- Participate in project conference calls;
- Project sponsor name and logo listed on all promotional materials;
- Project sponsor name and logo listed on the final report;
- Receive hard copies of the final report;
- Receive Executive Summary of the final report for use on company website and for marketing purposes;
- Receive recognition as a thought leader for cutting-edge research of K-12 e-learning in Canada for sponsoring the research study; and
- Sponsor recognition during CANeLearn events highlighting the study.

The plans for the 2019 study include an updating of the K-12 policy and activity reports for each of the provinces. Also, the 2019 study will feature the more detailed format that includes brief issue papers and vignettes from a variety of K-12 e-learning programs across the different province and territories, along with the continued updating of the individual program survey response. Finally, there will be a greater development of the new online version of the report – particularly the French language portion of the website.

For-profit and non-profit institutions, organizations, individuals, foundations and companies are welcome to partner with CANeLearn for sponsoring the study. Please consider sponsorship of this important survey and report to be conducted annually. Your consideration is deeply appreciated.