

### 3.3 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: 82*



#### **Governance and Regulation**

While there is no reference to distance education in the *Education Act, 2016*, pursuant to section 8 of the *School Act, 1988*, there have been two Ministerial Directives concerning distance education (i.e., first *Ministerial Directive No. MD 2001-05*, which was superseded by *Ministerial Directive No. MD 2008-05*). According to *MD 2008-05*, distance education was defined as “a mode of instruction in which the student and teacher are separated in either time or space or both, and where two-way communication takes place through non-traditional means for the most part. There is a broad range of both individualized and team instructional approaches and strategies used in distance education. Distance education communication may utilize various technologies and media, including but not limited to print, computers and computer networks, telecommunications, and audio-visual equipment and resources.” Internal regulations continue to be driven by this Ministerial Directive, which applies to courses delivered during the regular school day. The directive also outlines a series of beliefs about the nature of distance education instruction.

Additionally, individual schools and districts that participate in distance education programs must adhere to guidelines found in the provincial *Distance Education Handbook* document. The updated document specifies the use of distance education for students in particular circumstances.

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

At present there are no K-12 distance education programs in Prince Edward Island.

Through an inter-provincial agreement, students in Prince Edward Island are funded to take online courses from the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. During the 2016-17 school year there were 18 French first language students and 64 English language students enrolled in online courses through this agreement.

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

According to the Department, there was no intentional blended learning (i.e., specific projects or initiatives) occurring in public schools.