

## 3.8 Saskatchewan (SK)

*Population: 1,158,339*

*Number of K-12 Schools: 756*

*Number of K-12 Students: 177,787*

*Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 15*

*Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~8,500*



### Governance and Regulation

There is a single reference for distance education in the *Education Act*, under the Technology Supported Revolving fund section, that reads “to provide educational courses to all areas of Saskatchewan through the use of distance-education technology.” However, this clause became moot with the devolution of distance education services from the Ministry to individual school divisions in 2009.

Presently, the delivery of distance education, online learning, and blended learning in the province is guided by the *Saskatchewan Technology in Education Framework (TEF)*, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the education sector with regards to the use of technology in education. It contains a number of outcomes and indicators that guide the use of technology in the province in the areas of teaching and learning, administrative operations and infrastructure. In particular, the *TEF* requires that school divisions ensure distance and online learning opportunities are available to students, that intra- and inter-school division learning opportunities are available to students with local support provided, that distance learners have success rates that are equivalent to students in traditional classroom environments, and that assistive technology and technical support is available to students with intensive needs and/or school personnel supporting them.

It should be noted that the Ministry is actively working with their sector partners on provincial definitions for distance education, online learning, and blended learning. Those consultations have not reached a stage where the Ministry is in a position to release these definitions.

### K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

The Ministry of Education coordinates a centralized online course directory – the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Course Repository. During the 2016-17 school year there were 13 school divisions, one associate school and one independent school listed in the repository.

The Ministry only 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 2016-17 school year, there were 11,440 course enrollments involving 6,946 unique secondary-level students with 7,831 credits earned. Further, the Ministry also indicated there were students in

kindergarten through grade nine taking courses online through a variety of providers, but the Ministry did not collect data about their involvement.

Based on the most recent responses to the annual *Individual Program Survey*, 13 of the 15 e-learning programs collectively reported approximately 8,500 students engaged in some form of distance and/or online learning.

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

At this time, the Ministry does not track individual blended learning programs in the province. Of those completing the annual *Individual Program Survey* there were only three that indicated they had a blended learning program. Based on only those three responses, there were at least 1,700 students formally engaged in blended learning.

The Ministry is able to report that all 28 school divisions are implementing the *TEF* and are working to ensure students have access to the tools they require to succeed in school, including access to technology. Within school divisions, teachers have the choice to deliver instruction using a variety of teaching methods, including blended learning, to best meet the needs of their students. Many school divisions are currently building blended learning modules and resources to support teachers in blending instruction in their classrooms.