



3.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

Population: 44,826

Number of K-12 Schools: 49

Number of K-12 Students: 8,700

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 1

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: 130

Governance and Regulation

The *Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 72). The Department of Education, Culture and Employment defines distance learning as the deliberate use of the Internet, the world wide web, and landlines to leverage communication tools, learning management systems, and resources to overcome geographic obstacles to accessing brick and mortar courses, disciplinary expertise, and student cohort formation. Since 2004, the Department has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC), which has historically been the main provider of distance education for Northwest Territories students. Additionally, section 3.3 of the *Northwest Territories School Handbook* outlines a series of requirements that schools must adhere to in order to participate in distance learning. While the document is primarily focused on describing distance learning and specific operational items related to schools participation in the ADLC, it does recommend that schools have a dedicated online facilitator, scheduled distance learning time in student timetables, a plan for students to complete courses in a timely manner, and access to additional relevant resources.

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. The territorial government has made the development of and support for building its internal distance learning capacity a priority (see <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/en/services/education-renewal/northern-distance-learning>).

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

The NDL program is currently in its second year of a three-year expansion. NDL teachers are based in Inuvik, typically with a small number of students from the host school enrolled in classes taught by these teachers. Students in 15 other schools access the course material online from their respective schools with the help of a local support person, and interact with the teacher and classmates through videoconferencing. The program uses *Moodle* for its learning management system. During the 2018-19 school year 72 students were enrolled in NDL.

Additionally, there were approximately 58 students enrolled in distance learning courses offered through the ADLC during the 2018-19 school year.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment defines blended learning as a formal education program where students learn in part through online delivery of content and instruction, and in part in a brick and mortar setting. This definition is consistent with the study's description of online distance learning, and, accordingly, consistent with the NDL as discussed in the previous section. There were no additional data related to blended learning provided.