



Federal

Population: 1,008,955¹

Number of K-12 Schools: 495²

Number of K-12 Students: ~109,400³

Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs: 5

Number of K-12 E-Learning Students: ~2,200

¹ 2016 Census data

² refers to those reporting a 2019-20 nominal roll directly to ISC.

³ 2016-17 data.

Governance and Regulation

Over the past four school years, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) engaged with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in response to Resolution No. 16/2016 passed by the Chiefs Council on Education (CCOE), which called upon the Government of Canada to engage in an *Honourable Process to Develop Recommendations to support First Nations Education Reform*. The Government of Canada responded to the Resolution by partnering with First Nations to design and implement an inclusive and comprehensive engagement process aimed at developing recommendations for strengthening First Nation student success (see *First Nations Education Transformation: Engagement 2016-2018*). On April 1, 2019, ISC implemented a new co-developed policy and funding approach for elementary and secondary education, to better meet the needs of First Nations students on reserve and improve outcomes.

The new *Elementary and Secondary Education Program* funding replaces the outdated proposal-based programs and provides First Nation students resident-on-reserve with funding allocations that are comparable to what students at provincial schools receive. The formulas are updated annually to account for student population growth and considerations such as teachers' salaries and benefits, remoteness and school size. Consistent with the policy proposal endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations, on top of this base funding ISC also provides additional funding enhancements that respond to the unique needs of First Nation students. This additional funding includes a common investment of \$1,500 per student per year for First Nations language and culture programming; new resources to support full-day kindergarten in First Nations schools for children aged four and five, regardless of how kindergarten is offered in the respective provincial education system; and ongoing investments in special education, over and above comparable funding levels in provincial education systems. Furthermore, ISC is working in partnership with First Nations to develop Treaty-based, regional and local education agreements that respond to the education goals and priorities set by First Nations. These agreements are co-developed at a regional level through discussion tables to reflect First Nations' needs and priorities.

It should be noted that the department, previously known as INAC, has now been divided into: the department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). ISC now houses key First Nation services such as: Regional Operations; Child and Family Services Reform; Strategic Policy and Partnerships;

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch; Lands and Economic Development; and, Education and Social Development, Programs and Partnerships. This structure is designed to position the programs and services to more effectively collaborate, develop and deliver holistic approaches to social, healthcare and infrastructure services to Indigenous partners. The two continue to be responsible for meeting the Government of Canada's legal obligations and commitments to Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), and for fulfilling the federal government's constitutional responsibilities in the North.

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

First Nations administered schools submit data to ISC so that their funding reflects local context with indicators such as:

- distance education;
- home schooled (online sourced); and
- virtual (Internet).

However, under the Education Transformation and to reflect the Principle of First Nation Control of First Nation Education, ISC respects that the sharing of data is a First Nation decision and, therefore, has not provided program level data for the 2019-20 school year.

At least four K-12 distance/online learning programs designated as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit programs have been identified through the Individual Program Survey as operating during the 2019-20 school year: Keewaytinook Internet High School and Wahsa Distance Education Centre (Ontario), Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate (Manitoba), and SCcyber E-learning Community (Alberta). It is estimated that these programs have a combined enrollment of approximately 2200 students.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

For funding purposes, ISC does maintain indicators related to blended learning:

- 1) classroom and distance education; and
- 2) classroom and virtual (Internet).

However, since ISC no longer provides data on these indicators. The most recent data shared was by INAC during the 2016-17 school year, when they reported that 201 students registered for blended: (i.e., classroom and distance education) and 331 students registered for blended (i.e., classroom and virtual [Internet]); or a total of 531 students engaged in blended learning.

Emergency Remote Teaching

While many schools may have simply followed the mandates and guidelines in their respective jurisdictions in which the school is located, ISC supported First Nations Control of First Nations Education and, as such, the First Nation communities made their own choices regarding their protocols, delivery methods, and school re-opening during any need for emergency remote learning. Finally, the federal Government – through the Public Health Agency of Canada – published general guidance for all K-12 schools.