



## **Nunavut (NV)**

Population: 39,407

Number of K-12 Schools: 45

Number of K-12 Students: 10,902

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: 0

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: Unknown

### **Governance and Regulation**

The *Education Act, 1999* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 75). The Department of Education defines distance learning as involving the use of appropriate technologies to provide learning experiences for students who are physically separated from their instructor for the majority of the learning process. Distance education applies to courses that cannot be offered due to insufficient numbers of students or when the subject matter is highly technical, requiring specialized teaching staff that may not be available in the community. Distance education can be delivered as on-line courses or as print courses.

There are also territorial agreements between Nunavut and various distance learning providers, for example the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC).

Distance education and/or online learning is not funded differently than traditional brick-and-mortar education. However, territorial students who are officially registered as part of a homeschooling program are eligible to receive up to \$1000 of expense reimbursement for distance education programs to cover the costs of registration fees, books, and equipment.

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

Historically, the Department of Education tracks student enrolment information through its agreements with distance learning providers. In the past the department has had agreements with distance learning providers such as the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (which closed in 2021) and Contact North in Ontario. It is not known the status or level of activity from any of these agreements.

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

At present, the Department of Education is not involved in any blended learning initiatives.

## Remote Learning

### *Fall 2021 Reopening*

All students in Nunavut returned to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, with land-based learning and outdoor education continuing. The focus for the beginning of the year was on ‘recovery learning’ as a transition for curriculum and achievement as well as mental health and well-being. Should a return to remote learning occur, schools used *Edsby* as their online platform. Daily learning would be adjusted to age and grade level and accommodations for diverse needs of students. A blended model of learning could also be put in place where students were in-school 50% of the time and then in online cohorts. Devices would be delivered to students in need as well as learning packages and supplies to support remote learning. Finally, assessments and reporting also continued (LaBonte et al., 2021).

### *2021-22 School Year*

Schools remained open to in-person learning until the return to school from December holidays when, due to increasing community spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, school reopening was delayed until January 17, 2022 with a return to remote learning. School safety plans were put in place for student return to in-person learning January 24 at either 100 percent or 50 percent capacity depending on the COVID-19 situation (e.g., schools in Iqaluit, Kinngait, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay opened at 50 per cent capacity) (Nunavut Department of Education, 2022). Masks were required on school buses and in schools until April 11 when the government lifted all mandatory restrictions other than masking restrictions at government workplaces and health facilities.

## References

LaBonte, R., Barbour, M. K., & Mongrain, J. (2022). *Teaching during times of turmoil: Ensuring Continuity of learning during school closures*. Canadian eLearning Network.

<https://canelearn.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Teaching-During-Times-of-Turmoil.pdf>

LaBonte, R., Barbour, M. K., & Nagle, J. (2021). *Pandemic pedagogy in Canada: Lessons from the first 18 months*. Canadian eLearning Network.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gaNFXDCt44W9DaAC9iRAf33pDTKup2C8/view>