



## **New Brunswick (NB)**

Population: 781,024

Number of K-12 Schools: 302

Number of K-12 Students: 102,934

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: 3

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: ~5,451

### **Governance and Regulation**

While there is no specific legislative language concerning K-12 distance, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development defines distance learning as the delivery of a course where the teacher responsible for assessment and instruction is in a location physically remote from the student. Online teachers communicate with the school to relay information about student progress.

Both the Anglophone and Francophone sectors of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development manage their own K-12 distance learning programs. These programs are funded through the Department directly, and are provided at no cost to schools or districts. The Department has published policy handbooks and web resources, different for both the English and French programs, which outline who can take distance courses, list the courses offered, describe the registration process, and outline duties of each role in the process. Additionally, as of the 2019-20 school year, the organization of distance learning courses in the French-speaking sector had a new structure to allow school districts to be involved in decision making through a management committee.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development defines blended learning as the use of online and distance learning resources to support a teacher delivering a course onsite to students. Students continue to have access to the online material outside of class time for independent work.

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

The two distance learning programs service secondary students in New Brunswick in either of the province's two official languages. Both distance and blended courses use content created by the department and information is recorded in a learning portal, which records information about courses taken, school of origin and basic student demographic information. Some additional registrations, such as adults upgrading high school, are manually recorded, but not tracked with the same level of detail. During the 2022-23 school year, there were 3,541 regular students enrolled in 65 different courses in the Anglophone program, while there 1,918 students enrolled in 63 different courses in the Francophone program.

Additionally, the Anglophone program offered a free online summer program that allowed interested high school students and recent graduates the opportunity to take a single course for credit. During the Summer 2023 there were 756 students enrolled in 16 different courses.

Similarly, the Francophone program offered three mathematics courses led by three teachers during the summer session to enable students to complete a course, repeat a failed course or change their change course or get ahead with their credit count.

Finally, the pilot project that began during the 2021-22 school year and had a single school district deliver Advanced Placement (AP) courses across a small network of schools has continued. This pilot enabled smaller schools to offer these courses through a primarily synchronous delivery model.

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

All students are enrolled in *Microsoft Teams* sites for courses that integrate with the student information system. Additionally, the content that has been created for all of the distance learning courses is available to all teachers in the province as a professional learning resource. Teachers can request access to this content in D2L's *Brightspace* environment to use in their classroom teaching. While the Ministry tracks the number of courses requested by teachers, it does not track the number of students enrolled in the system.