



Federal

Population: 1,807,250¹

Number of K-12 Schools: 535²

Number of K-12 Students: ~120,180²

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: 4+

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: ~5,000

¹ 2021 Census data from Statistics Canada

² refers to those reporting a 2024-25 nominal roll directly to ISC

Governance and Regulation

In response to Resolution No. 16/2016 passed by the Chiefs Council on Education (CCOE), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) engaged with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 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The Elementary and Secondary Education Program funding replaces the outdated proposal-based programs and provides First Nation students resident-on-reserve with funding allocations that are comparable to what students at provincial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 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), is currently the department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). ISC 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 with

First Nations, developing and delivering holistic approaches to social, healthcare and infrastructure services for 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

During the 2024-25 school year, ISC reported the following K-12 distance and online learning activity:

- distance education – 867
- home schooled – 61
- virtual (internet) – 162

This data was based on the Nominal Roll Student and Education Staff Census Report and was current as of March 31, 2025. Data for First Nations with self-government agreements may not be included in this data.

At least four K-12 distance/online learning programs designated as Indigenous programs have been identified: Keewaytinook Internet High School and Wahsa Distance Education Centre (Ontario), Wapaskwa Virtual Collegiate (Manitoba), and SCcyber E-learning Community (Alberta). It is not known whether students enrolled in these four programs are captured in the ISC data described above.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

For funding purposes, ISC does maintain indicators related to blended learning. During the 2024-25 school year, ISC reported the following K-12 blended learning activity:

- Blended: Classroom and Distance Education – 1,807
- Blended: Classroom and Virtual (Internet) – 1,517

This data was based on the Nominal Roll Student and Education Staff Census Report and was current as of March 31, 2025. Data for First Nations with self-government agreements may not be included in this data.