



## **Manitoba (MB)**

Population: 1,509,702

Number of K-12 Schools: 830

Number of K-12 Students: 222,227

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: ~38

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: ~7,200

## **Governance and Regulation**

The only reference in the Public Schools Act regarding distance education is mention that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning can approve courses of study, including correspondence and other courses. Historically, “distance learning” was defined by Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning as:

- a method of accessing courses of study even though learners and their teachers, instructors, or tutor/markers may be in different physical locations; and
- programs that provide flexibility and equitable access to diverse learning opportunities, while at the same time respects local community decisions regarding program implementation.

The Manitoba Student Records system has a mechanism to indicate whether the credit earned was obtained through some form of distance education, but this method of data collection is dependent on the individual schools categorizing and entering the data correctly. By default, most schools report the credit as earned in a traditional manner, regardless of the method of instruction. As such, the data reported here may be significantly lower than the actual involvement in distance or online learning.

Following a comprehensive review of the K-12 education system (Manitoba Commission on K to 12 Education, 2020), and an examination of the distance and online learning options that were provided prior to and during the pandemic (Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, 2022; Saftich et al., 2022), the province began a process to “develop a provincial remote learning strategy, including an online high school, to enhance access to programming and learning across the province” (Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, 2022, pp. 15 & 23). It should be noted that a recent provincial election resulted in a change of government, and the development of this strategy has been put on hold.

Unlike other jurisdictions, which strictly used the term “remote learning” to refer to the temporary measures put in place to address safety concerns around in person learning during the pandemic, the Government of Manitoba defined the term “remote learning” in much the same way they had described “distance learning” (as well as operationalizing the terms online learning, synchronous learning, and asynchronous learning).

Remote learning: Remote learning is synchronous and/or asynchronous learning, and includes a variety of formats and delivery methods, such as online learning, video calls, phone calls, and hard-copy packages.

Online learning: A method of learning that relies primarily on communication between students and teachers by means of the Internet.

Synchronous learning: Synchronous learning is learning that involves a teacher and their student(s) interacting in real time.

Asynchronous learning: Asynchronous learning is independent learning that does not require real-time communication between a teacher and their student(s). (Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, 2023a, p. 24)

As the conclusion of this consultative process, the province released a *K-12 Action Plan: Provincial Remote Learning Strategy* (Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, 2023b), as well as the creation of a “Remote Learning MB” support website (Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, 2023c).

For the most part, remote learning options are funded in a manner similar to brick-and-mortar education with a few exceptions. There are two remote learning schools that are available to all Manitoba students. The Teacher Mediated Option (TMO) and InformNet operate under funding agreements with Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. A fee per seat registered has been established in partnership between TMO, InformNet, and Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.

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

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning continues to partner with InformNet, the Teacher Mediated Option (TMO), and the *Division scolaire franco-manitobaine* (DSFM) to operate distance/remote learning programming for Manitoba students in Grades 9 to 12. Each school division in the province has participated in one or more of the above options. However, participation varies from year to year depending on the changing needs of students and schools. During the 2024-25 school year, InformNet provided remote learning to approximately 3,300 students and TMO provided remote learning to approximately 900 students.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning licenses D2L’s *Brightspace* learning management system and makes it available to all K to 12 teachers. Teachers can use the learning management system’s interactive and collaborative tools to create learning experiences, as well as post content and lessons accessible to students outside of the traditional classroom and school day. Approximately 3,000 students participated in distance/remote learning at their local school or school division through the provincial learning management system, *Brightspace*.

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

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning formally defines blended learning as “a combination of traditional face-to-face classroom learning and online/remote learning” (Manitoba Education, 2020, para 1). The Ministry does not formally track participation in blended learning.

## References

Manitoba Commission on K to 12 Education. (2020). *Our children's success: Manitoba's future*. <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/publications.html>

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. (2020). *Distance learning: Blended learning*. [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/blended\\_learning.html](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/blended_learning.html) / [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/docs/blend\\_learn.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/docs/blend_learn.pdf)

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. (2022). *Manitoba's K to 12 education Action plan*. [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action\\_plan/index.html](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action_plan/index.html)

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Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. (2023b). *K-12 action plan: Provincial remote learning strategy*. [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action\\_plan/studentengagement/remote\\_learning\\_strategy.html](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action_plan/studentengagement/remote_learning_strategy.html)

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Saftich, A., Telfer, L., Falconi, A., Potter, L., & Commerford, D. (2022). *Report to provide recommendations to support the Manitoba remote learning strategy*. [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action\\_plan/docs/prls\\_ibm\\_recommendations\\_en.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action_plan/docs/prls_ibm_recommendations_en.pdf)