



## Prince Edward Island (PE)

Population: 159,249

Number of K-12 Schools: 63

Number of K-12 Students: 20,131

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: 1

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: 214

## Governance and Regulation

While there is no reference to distance education in the *Education Act, 2016*, pursuant to section 8 of the *School Act, 1988*, there have been three Ministerial Directives concerning distance education (i.e., first *Ministerial Directive No. MD 2001-05*, which was superseded by *Ministerial Directive No. MD 2008-05*, and later *Ministerial Directive No. MD 2016-05*), the final of which indicated:

### Distance Education Courses

12. An education authority may grant credit to a student for an educational activity provided through a distance education course or a correspondence course, during or outside of normal school hours, if

- a) the course is approved by the Department;
- b) the student's participation in the course is supervised by a teacher or a person who is registered as a teacher in another province or territory; and
- c) the course is approved by the principal of the student's school as being appropriate for the student's academic program prior to the commencement of the course.

13. The credit granted for the educational activity under section 12 shall not be for the equivalent course offered by an education authority unless it is approved as an equivalent credit by the Department. (Government of Prince Edward Island, 2022, p. 24)

Additionally, as a part of the *Online Learning Handbook (2025)*, the Department of Education and Early Years (2025) adjusted the definition in their handbook to better reflect student eligibility and school responsibilities for online learning. The current definition reads:

“Sometimes referred to as distance education, online learning offers course content online, organized in an environment called a learning management system (LMS). The system includes a host of virtual communication and collaboration tools. Online learning courses have similar expectations and instructional content as a course offered in school, including diagnostic assessments as well as formative and summative assessment tasks. Online courses approved by the Department of Education and Early Years offer credits in the same way as traditional classes do.”

This change reflected schools' understanding of how they could access online learning for students, not as an option in their block scheduling, but rather as a graduation requirement pathway for students in special circumstances.

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

The most recent response indicated that there were 68 students enrolled in a virtual provincial alternative education programme during the 2024-25 school year.

Additionally, through an inter-provincial agreement students in Prince Edward Island are funded to take online courses from the New Brunswick Virtual Learning Centre and the Ontario Virtual School. During the 2024-25 school year there were 168 students enrolled in online courses from the New Brunswick Virtual Learning Centre.

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

According to the Department, there was no intentional blended learning (i.e., specific projects or initiatives) occurring in public schools.

### **References**

Department of Education and Early Years. (2025). *Online learning handbook (2025)*.  
Government of Prince Edward Island.

Government of Prince Edward Island. (2016). *Ministerial directive no. MD 2016-05: Granting of credit for educational activities not provided by an education authority*.  
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