



Saskatchewan (SK)

Population: 1,239,865

Number of K-12 Schools: 755

Number of K-12 Students: 200,066

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Programs: 25

Number of K-12 Distance Learning Students: 22,383

Governance and Regulation

In December 2022, the *Education Amendment Act, 2023* amended the *Education Act, 1995* to define “online learning” as:

- where the learning activities, including collaboration, sharing, communication and learning resources, between each of the pupils and the teacher are primarily done by means of the internet or any other digital platform; and,
- that does not require pupils to be face-to-face with each other or with the teacher;
 - but does not include any learning that is excluded from this definition by regulation; (“*apprentissage en ligne*”). (Government of Saskatchewan, 2023a, p. 13)

The *Education Amendment Act, 2023* also established, as well as outlined the powers and duties of, the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (Government of Saskatchewan, 2023b). This new Treasury Board Crown Corporation is responsible to oversee centralized online education in the province by operating like the head office and main hub for online education in the province.

Further, Saskatchewan separate school divisions, the *Conseil des écoles fransaskoises* and registered independent schools must submit an application form to the Ministry of Education to become an approved online learning provider. The application process ensures that school divisions follow a *Provincial Quality Assurance Framework* (Government of Saskatchewan, 2023c). The Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation and all approved online learning providers are subject to monitoring by the Ministry of Education. The monitoring process creates an accountability mechanism to ensure quality assurance related to online learning delivery. This new online learning model will be implemented in the 2023-24 school year.

In terms of funding, school divisions continue to be funded for operating expenses through the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 Education Funding Distribution Model. As with in-class learning in Saskatchewan, the new provincial online school will provide free education for its students up to the age of 22 once it begins operation. Adult learners aged 22 and older will have access to courses as well and will pay tuition for each course. Additionally, as part of the funding model, boards of education receive funding to support full-time online students attending the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation online school or an approved school division-operated online school. Part-time online students are recognized for funding through the various components of the funding model, and enrolments are counted at their local school. School

divisions are responsible for providing local support to full-time and part-time online students that reside within their boundaries (e.g., speech-language pathologists and educational psychology assessments, driver's license training, graduation ceremonies and extra-curricular activities).

Beyond this new legislative environment, the Ministry of Education continues to track distance education/online learning enrolment and provincial online school information for Prekindergarten to Grade 12 through the Student Data System.

K-12 Distance and Online Learning Activity

As of 2024-25, there were 15 provincial schools in eight school divisions, one provincial school operated by the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (SKDLC) as a Crown Corporation (which provides two offerings: a regular school year and a summer school), five independent schools, and four First Nation schools categorized as having online learning schools offering Prekindergarten to Grade 12 learning courses to Saskatchewan students. There were 22,383 unique students involved in K-12 distance education or online learning programs. This number is comprised of 6,731 base school enrollments (i.e., the student's home school where they are registered to take most or all their classes or schooling), 6,873 non-base school enrollments (i.e., a school that is not the student's home or base school where they are registered to take specific course(s) not available to the student in their home or base school), 49 additional students experiencing schooling through distance learning facilitated by teachers in schools not dedicated to online learning, and 8,730 additional students who registered for at least one course delivered through distance learning.

K-12 Blended Learning Activity

Blended learning is a responsibility of school divisions, as such the Ministry does not monitor this activity.

References

Government of Saskatchewan.(2023a). *Education Act, 1995, E-0.2*.
<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/487>

Government of Saskatchewan.(2023b). *Chapter 23 - The Education Amendment Act, 2023/Loi modificative de 2023 sur l'éducation*.
<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/121363>

Government of Saskatchewan.(2023c). *Quality assurance framework for K-12 online learning*.
<https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/120344>