State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada

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State of the Nation:
K-12 E-Learning in Canada

Rapport sur la situation du e-learning en M-12 au Canada

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The purpose of this comprehensive study is to examine the current state of all forms of K-12 e-learning (i.e., distance, online and blended learning) in Canada. The *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* study updates the provincial, territorial, and federal governance and activity of K-12 e-learning in each jurisdiction, along with providing vignettes to illustrate a variety of those individuals and programs providing these e-learning opportunities.

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Methodology

1. a survey sent to each of the Ministries of Education;
2. follow-up interviews to clarify or expand on any of the responses contained in the survey;
3. an analysis of documents and other publicly reported information; and
4. follow-up interviews with key stakeholders in many of the jurisdictions.

A. an individual program survey; and
B. follow-up interviews with key stakeholders in many of the jurisdictions.

Methodology

Table 1. Data collection sources for the *State of the Nation: K-12 E-Learning in Canada* since 2018

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NL	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA
NS	MoE	MoE	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE
PE	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	KS/DA	KS/DA	MoE
NB	MoE	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE
QC	MoE/KS	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS
ON	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA
MB	MoE	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE
SK	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS
AB	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA
BC	MoE	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE
YT	KS	KS	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA	MoE/KS
NT	MoE	MoE/KS	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/DA
NU	MoE	KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	DA
Federal	INAC/KS	KS/DA	ISC/KS/DA	ISC/KS	ISC/KS

MoE – Ministry of Education; KS – Key stakeholders; DA – Document analysis;
INAC – Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada/ISC – Indigenous Services Canada

Shaded block indicates incomplete data or data from an earlier school year provided

Methodology

Table 2. Individual program survey responses for 2021-22

	Total Number of Programs	Number of Programs Responding	Response Rate
NL	2	0	0%
NS	2	0	0%
PE	1	0	0%
NB	2	1	50%
QC	5+	3	60%
ON	~70	9	13%
MB	~38	1	3%
SK	27	4	5%
AB	46	13	28%
BC	71	10	14%
YT	2	0	0%
NT	1	0	0%
NU	0	-	-
Federal	4	3	75%
Total	271	44	16%

Data as of the time the printed report was submitted for publication (K-12 e-learning programs can update their information at any time).

Methodology

Table 3. Historic individual program survey responses

	Total Number of Programs	Number of Programs Responding	Response Rate
NL	2	2	100%
NS	2	2	100%
PE	1	0	-
NB	2	2	100%
QC	5+	5	100%
ON	~70	42	60%
MB	~38	9	24%
SK	27	14	52%
AB	46	25	54%
BC	71	51	72%
YT	2	2	100%
NT	1	1	100%
NU	0	-	-
Federal	5	5	100%
Total	372	160	43%

Regulation

Table 4. Summary of the K-12 distance and online learning regulation by jurisdiction

	Legislation	Policy Handbook	Agreements	Memorandum of Understanding
NL				
NS	✔			
PE	✔			
NB		✔		
QC	✔		✔	
ON		✔	✔	
MB	✔	✔		✔
SK				
AB	✔	✔		
BC	✔		✔	
YT	✔			✔
NT	✔	✔		✔
NU	✔			✔
Federal	✔			

National Overview

Figure 1. Types of K-12 distance and online learning programming across Canada
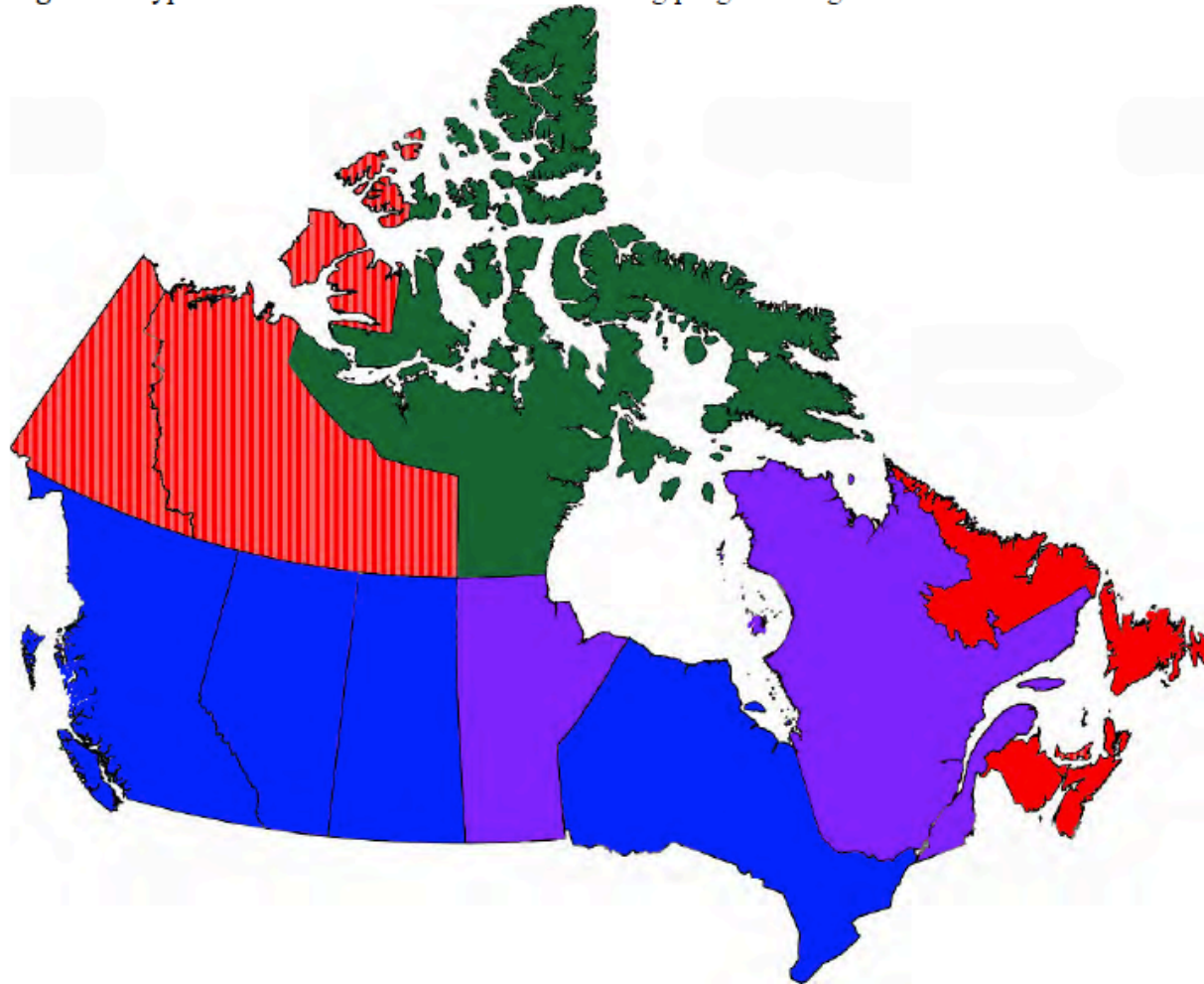
Single provincial program
Primarily district-based programs
Combination of provincial and district-based programs
Use online learning programs from other provinces

Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 5. Summary of K-12 distance and/or online learning activity by jurisdiction for 2020-21

	# of K-12 students	# enrolled in distance/online learning	Percent involvement
NL	63,536	936	1.5%
NS	129,121	2,761	2.1%
PE	20,131	~260	1.3%
NB	98,906	5,134	5.2%
QC	1,003,322	~55,000	5.5%
ON	2,056,055	~139,000	6.8%
MB	204,149	~8,000	3.9%
SK	186,084	19,142	10.3%
AB	733,599	~92,000	12.5%
BC	~667,000	73,744	11.1%
YT	5,456	~250	4.6%
NT	8,700	120	1.4%
NU	10,902	-	-
Federal	109,001	~3,500	3.2%
Total	*5,295,962*	*399,847*	*7.6%*

Note: ~ symbol means that approximations were provided by one or more sources

Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 6. K-12 distance and/or online learning student enrollment in Canada

Year	# of distance education students	% of students engaged in distance education
1999-2000*	~25,000	0.5%
2008-09	~140,000	2.7%
2009-10	150,000-175,000	2.9%-3.4%
2010-11	207,096	4.2%
2011-12	245,252	4.9%
2012-13	284,963	5.2%
2013-14	290,185	5.4%
2014-15	311,648	6.0%
2015-16	293,401	5.7%
2016-17	277,603	5.4%
2017-18	263,686	5.1%
2018-19	299,320	5.9%
2019-20	310,582	6.0%
2020-21	387,385	7.3%
2021-22	399,847	7.6%

* (Canadian Teachers Federation, 2000)

Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 7. Summary of K-12 distance and/or online learning activity over the past four years

	# students engaged in distance and/or online learning			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
NL	1,140	1,092	1,029	936
NS	2,381	2,241	3,319	2,761
PE	~100	133	~175	~260
NB	~3,270	~3,470	4,754	5,134
QC	~40,000	~35,000	~39,400	~55,000
ON	~89,000	~98,000	~122,000	~139,000
MB	~11,875	~13,749	~8,173	~8,000
SK	8,378	12,456	22,510	19,142
AB	75,806	82,857	97,527	~92,000
BC	~65,000	~59,000	~85,000	73,744
YT	170	234	389	~250
NT	130	131	92	120
NU	~70	19	~15	-
Federal	~2,000	~2,200	~3,000	~3,500
Total	*299,320*	*310,582*	*387,385*	*399,847*

Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 8. Summary of K-12 distance and/or online learning activity over the past four years

	% students engaged in distance and/or online learning			
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
NL	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%
NS	2.0%	1.8%	2.7%	2.1%
PE	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	1.3%
NB	3.3%	3.5%	4.8%	5.2%
QC	4.0%	3.5%	3.9%	5.5%
ON	4.4%	4.8%	5.9%	6.8%
MB	5.7%	6.6%	4.4%	3.9%
SK	4.5%	6.7%	12.2%	10.3%
AB	10.6%	11.2%	13.3%	12.5%
BC	10.2%	10.8%	12.6%	11.1%
YT	3.1%	4.2%	7.1%	4.6%
NT	1.4%	1.5%	1.1%	1.4%
NU	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	-
Federal	1.9%	2.0%	2.8%	3.2%
Total	*5.9%*	*6.0%*	*7.3%*	*7.6%*

Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 9. Number of K-12 distance learning programs per jurisdiction over the past five years

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
NL	1	1	1	2	2
NS	2	2	2	2	2
PE	0	0	0	1	1
NB	2	2	2	2	2
QC	4	5+	6+	7+	44+
ON	~81	~81	~70	~70	248
MB	~38	~38	~38	~38	~38
SK	15	14	16	27	36
AB	32	33	34	36	46
BC	74	74	69	68	71
YT	2	2	2	2	2
NT	1	1	1	1	1
02	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	5	5	5	4	4

CANeLearn Remote Learning Research site - https://sites.google.com/view/canelearn-ert/
CANeLearn Research Projects - https://canelearn.net/home/research/projects/

General Trends

- Establishing a "new normal"
  - Greater interest in K-12 online learning
    - Greater awareness ≠ Greater knowledge
    - Return to pre-pandemic growth levels
    - K-12 online learning becoming more political
  - On-going, often long-term examinations of the field have concluded
  - Greater movement towards centralized services or programs

- Continue to be outliers

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