

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



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Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care

Open School BC



October 2019

A Snapshot  
State of the Nation Study:  
K-12 Online Learning in

NACOL

State of the Nation:  
K-12 Online Learning in

iNACOL

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K-12 Online Learning in Canada

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Sacred Heart University

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K-12 Online Learning in Canada  
2014 Abbreviated Edition

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State of the Nation:  
K-12 e-Learning in Canada  
2021 Edition

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15  
CELEBRATING YEARS



# 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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[State of the Nation: K-12 e-Learning in Canada - 2020 Report Released](#)

<https://k12sotn.ca>

# 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

# Methodology

Table 1. Data collection sources for the State of the Nation: K–12 E-Learning in Canada since 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
NL	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA	DA
NS	MoE	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE	MoE
PE	MoE/KS	KS/DA	KS/DA	MoE	KS/DA
NB	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE	MoE
QC	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	KS	MoE/KS
ON	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA
MB	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE/DA	MoE	MoE
SK	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS	MoE/KS
AB	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA	KS/DA
BC	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE	MoE
YT	KS	MoE/KS/DA	KS/DA	MoE/KS	MoE
NT	MoE/KS	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/DA	MoE
NV	KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	MoE/KS/DA	DA	DA
<b>Federal</b>	KS/DA	ISC/KS/DA	ISC/KS	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*

# 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	✓	✓		✓
NV	✓			✓
Federal	✓			

# National Overview

Figure 1. Types of K-12 distance and online learning programming across Canada





# National Overview

It is important to readers that **the distinction between “primarily district-based programs” and “combination of provincial and district-based programs” is becoming quite blurred.** For example, in Alberta while there isn't a single English-language provincial program whose mission is focused on serving students province-wide, the changes to the funding mechanism in Alberta encourage all district-based distance learning programs to enroll students from outside of their own geographic region. The same is true for online schools in Saskatchewan. Even the district-based programs that operate at the school board level in Ontario have the ability to enroll students from anywhere in the province.

# National Overview

Figure 1. Types of K-12 distance and online learning programming across Canada



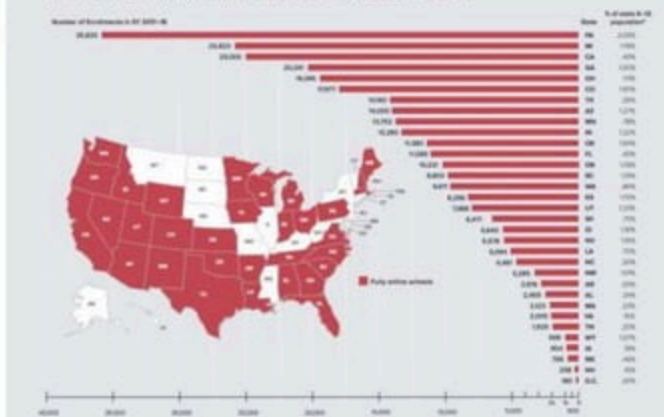
# National Overview

FIGURE 3: States with state virtual schools. Alaska, Texas, Utah, and South Dakota previously were states recognized as having state virtual schools in Keeping Pace reports.



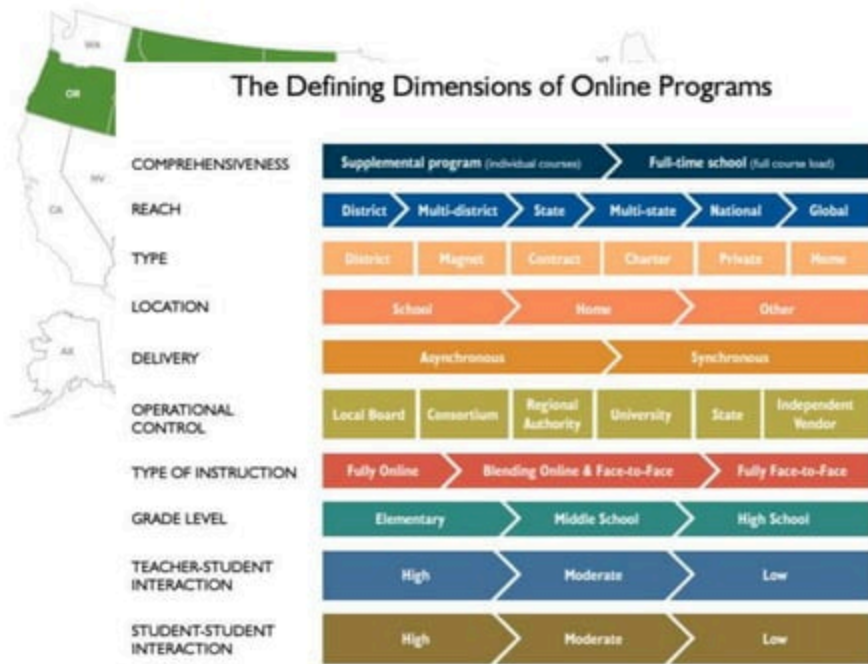
## 2019 States with Statewide Fully Online Schools

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF STUDENT ENROLLMENTS BY STATE AND PERCENTAGE OF STATE'S K-12 POPULATION



# National Overview

FIGURE 3: States with state virtual schools. Alaska, Texas, Utah, and South Dakota previously were states recognized as having state virtual schools in Keeping Pace reports.



## Schools

PERCENTAGE OF STATE'S 8-12 POPULATION

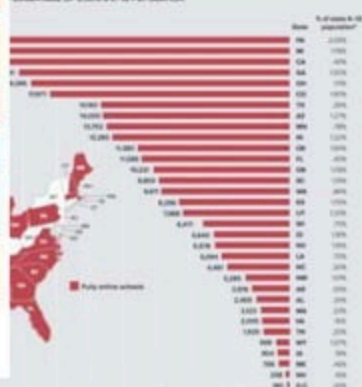


Figure adapted from Gregg Vanourek, A Primer on Virtual Charter Schools: Mapping the Electronic Frontier, Issue Brief for National Association of Charter School Authorizers, August 2006.

# National Overview

FIGURE 3: States with state virtual schools. Alaska, Texas, Utah, and South Dakota previously were states recognized as having state virtual schools in Keeping Pace reports.

## The Defining Dimensions of Online Programs

COMPRE  
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INTERAC

### Michigan

#### DIGITAL LEARNING STATE SNAPSHOT

Michigan Virtual School, the state virtual school, served over **21,944** course enrollments in SY 2013-14.

Public Act 196 (2014) continued Michigan's student choice program allowing students grades 6-12 to take up to two online courses per academic term without district approval.

**Nine fully online schools, or cyber charter schools,** are operating in SY 2014-15. **Seven cyber schools served 6,737 student enrollments** in SY 2013-14.

Figure ad  
Frontier.

### Availability of online learning options

#### SUPPLEMENTAL

K-5 (ES)

6-8 (MS)

9-12 (HS)

NONE

SOME

MOST

#### FULLY ONLINE

K-5 (ES)

6-8 (MS)

9-12 (HS)

SOME

SOME

SOME

Availability of info:

**Great**

Good

Fair

Poor

Minimal

### Does this state have...

	Y	N	
Student choice for publicly funded fully online schools?	●		Students in grades 6-12 may take two online courses per academic term without district approval.
Student choice for publicly funded supplemental online courses?	●		
SVS or another publicly funded option for private / homeschool students?		●	SB619 (2012) limits the number of cyber charters and their enrollments.
Prior public school attendance requirement for online schools?		●	
Online caps by class, school, district, or statewide?	●		MI was the first state to require an online course or learning experience to graduate high school.
PD requirement for online teachers?		●	
State approval process for online providers?		●	Districts reported 185,000 "virtual learning" enrollments in SY 2012-13.
State approval process for online courses?		●	
Online learning requirement for students?	●		
End-of-course exams?		●	
Separate state reporting of online course enrollments?	●		

2008  
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2029  
2030

# National Overview

FIGURE 3: States with state virtual schools. Alaska, Texas, Utah, and South Dakota previously were states recognized as having state virtual schools in Keeping Pace reports.

# 1

## DIGITAL LEARNING ACTIVITY

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# National Overview

Figure 1. Types of K-12 distance and online learning programming across Canada



# National Overview

## The Defining Dimensions of Online Programs

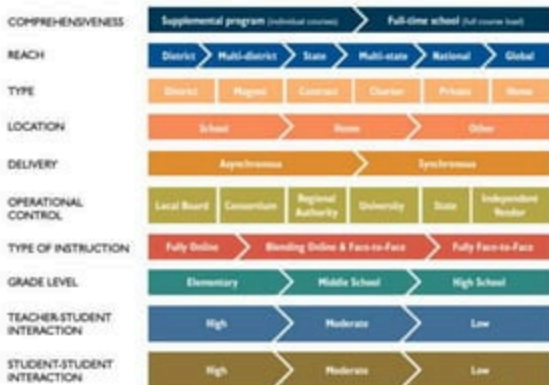


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## Michigan

### DIGITAL LEARNING STATE SNAPSHOT

#### Availability of online learning options



#### Availability of info:

**Great**  
Good  
Fair  
Poor  
Minimal

#### Does this state have...

	Y	N	
Student choice for publicly funded fully online schools?	●		Students in grades 6-12 may take two online courses per academic term without district approval.
Student choice for publicly funded supplemental online courses?	●		
SVS or another publicly funded option for private / homeschool students?		●	SB629 (2012) limits the number of cyber charters and their enrollments.
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PD requirement for online teachers?		●	
State approval process for online providers?	●		Districts reported 185,000 "virtual learning" enrollments in SY 2012-13.
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End-of-course exams?		●	
Separate state reporting of online course enrollments?	●		

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Nine fully online schools, or cyber charter schools, are operating in SY 2014-15. Seven cyber schools served **6,737 student enrollments** in SY 2013-14.



# Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 5. Summary of K–12 distance and/or online learning activity by jurisdiction for 2022–23

	# of K–12 students	# enrolled in distance/ online learning	Percent involvement
NL	63,805	~950	1.5%
NS	131,343	2,219	1.7%
PE	20,131	~175	0.8%
NB	102,934	~5,451	5.3%
QC	1,137,766	~50,000	4.4%
ON	2,028,688	~130,000	6.4%
MB	207,814	~6,650	3.2%
SK	189,924	15,521	8.2%
AB	766,280	~77,000	10.0%
BC	680,013	68,402	10.1%
YT	5,960	318	5.3%
NT	8,700	177	2.0%
NV	10,902	–	–
Federal	114,158	~3,500	3.0%
Total	5,468,418	~360,363	6.6%

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 enrolment 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%
2022-23	~360,363	6.6%

\* (Canadian Teachers Federation, 2000)

# Activity: Distance & Online Learning

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

# students engaged in distance and/or online learning					
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
NL	1,140	1,092	1,029	936	~950
NS	2,381	2,241	3,319	2,761	2,219
PE	~100	133	~175	~260	~175
NB	~3,270	~3,470	4,754	5,134	~5,451
QC	~40,000	~35,000	~39,400	~55,000	~50,000
ON	~89,000	~98,000	~122,000	~139,000	~130,000
MB	~11,875	~13,749	~8,173	~8,000	~6,650
SK	8,378	12,456	22,510	19,142	15,521
AB	75,806	82,857	97,527	~92,000	~77,000
BC	~65,000	~59,000	~85,000	73,744	68,402
YT	170	234	389	~250	318
NT	130	131	92	120	177
NV	~70	19	~15	-	-
Federal	~2,000	~2,200	~3,000	~3,500	~3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>299,320</b>	<b>310,582</b>	<b>387,385</b>	<b>399,847</b>	<b>~360,363</b>

# Activity: Distance & Online Learning

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

% students engaged in distance and/or online learning					
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
NL	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
NS	2.0%	1.8%	2.7%	2.1%	1.7%
PE	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	1.3%	0.8%
NB	3.3%	3.5%	4.8%	5.2%	5.3%
QC	4.0%	3.5%	3.9%	5.5%	4.4%
ON	4.4%	4.8%	5.9%	6.8%	6.4%
MB	5.7%	6.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.2%
SK	4.5%	6.7%	12.2%	10.3%	8.2%
AB	10.6%	11.2%	13.3%	12.5%	10.0%
BC	10.2%	10.8%	12.6%	11.1%	10.1%
YT	3.1%	4.2%	7.1%	4.6%	5.3%
NT	1.4%	1.5%	1.1%	1.4%	2.0%
NV	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	–	–
Federal	1.9%	2.0%	2.8%	3.2%	3.0%
Total	5.9%	6.0%	7.3%	7.6%	6.6%

# Activity: Distance & Online Learning

Table 9. Summary of K-12 distance and/or online learning activity over the past five years

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
NL	1	1	2	2	1
NS	2	2	2	2	2
PE	0	0	1	1	1
NB	2	2	2	2	3
QC	5+	6+	7+	44+	6+
ON	~81	~70	~70	248	527
MB	~38	~38	~38	~38	~38
SK	14	16	27	36	38
AB	33	34	36	46	46
BC	74	69	68	71	69
YT	2	2	2	2	2
NT	1	1	1	1	2
NV	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	5	5	4	4	4

# Activity: Blended Learning

# students engaged in blended learning			
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NL	10,905*	~8,000*	~9,000*
NS	~54,000*	~54,000*	97,575*
PE	-	-	-
NB	4171**	5,917**	~7,000**
QC	44,500**	~5,300***	~21,300***
ON	237,930*	~468,000*	~515,000*
MB	-	24***	-
SK	-	1895***	~11,500***
AB	-	1463***	~3071***
BC	6578***	~6,300***	~9,500***
YT	653**	830**	907**
NT	-	-	~100**
NU	-	-	-
Federal	***	638**	531*
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,737</b>	<b>657,985</b>	<b>664,134</b>

\* Estimate based on learning management system data

\*\* Data provided by Ministry

\*\*\* Data extracted from individual program survey response

# Activity: Remote Learning



CANeLearn Remote Learning Research site - <https://sites.google.com/view/canelearn-ert/>

CANeLearn Research Projects - <https://canelearn.net/home/research/projects/>

# General Trends

- Getting to a “new normal”
  - Greater interest in K-12 online learning
    - Greater awareness ≠ Greater knowledge
    - Return to pre-pandemic growth levels
  - Fruition of long-standing review processes and the implementation of new ecosystems in light of those reviews
  - Greater movement towards centralized services or programs
- Continue to be outliers on each of these points



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Your  
Questions  
and  
Comments



### 3.1 Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)

525,972	Population
252	Number of K-12 Schools
63,805	Number of K-12 Students
1	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~950	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



*no Ministerial update*

- Moving school districts into department
  - sole distance learning provider was operated by English school district

## 3.2 Nova Scotia (NS)

1,019,725	Population
370	Number of K-12 Schools
131,343	Number of K-12 Students
2	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
2,219	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- activity in Nova Scotia Virtual School is consistent
- introduced new Nova Scotia Independent Online Learning program to replace the old Correspondence Studies Program

### 3.3 Prince Edward Island (PE)

159,249	Population
63	Number of K-12 Schools
20,131	Number of K-12 Students
1	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~175	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



*no Ministerial update*

- appear to be re-establishing internal distance learning program focused on French-language offerings
- continue to use New Brunswick programming

### 3.4 New Brunswick (NB)

781,024	Population
302	Number of K-12 Schools
102,934	Number of K-12 Students
3	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~5,451	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- activity in English and French programs is consistent
- Advanced Placement pilot continues

### 3.5 Quebec (QC)

8,672,185	Population
3,146	Number of K-12 Schools
1,137,766	Number of K-12 Students
6+	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~5,000+	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- impact of the *Karounis c. Procureur Général du Québec* decision
- pilot programs continue – but data is unavailable

Comodal – This mode involves one or more students face-to-face and at a distance. The remote student follows the course simultaneously with the students of the class with the consent of all persons concerned, if applicable.

Comodal asynchronous alternation – This mode offers the possibility of following online courses offline (asynchronous) and sometimes take lessons simultaneously with their class (comodal) with the consent of all persons concerned, if applicable.



### 3.6 Ontario (ON)

15,109,416	Population
4,832	Number of K-12 Schools
2,028,688	Number of K-12 Students
527	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~130,000	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- students graduating in the 2023-24 school year will be held to the requirement of having completed two online courses in order to graduate in June 2024
- data collection continues to lag one or more school years
- extreme growth in private school sector

### 3.7 Manitoba (MB)

1,409,223	Population
826	Number of K-12 Schools
207,814	Number of K-12 Students
~38	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~6,650	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- updated provincial policy
  - only jurisdiction to use term remote learning
- activity at secondary level is consistent
  - ended its K-8 programming

### 3.8 Saskatchewan (SK)

1,194,803	Population
770	Number of K-12 Schools
189,924	Number of K-12 Students
38	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
15,521	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- implementation of *Education Amendment Act, 2023*
  - formalized online learning
  - created Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation
  - added a quality framework
- growth in number of online providers

### 3.9 Alberta (AB)

4,543,111	Population
2,518	Number of K-12 Schools
766,280	Number of K-12 Students
46	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
~77,000	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



*no Ministerial update*

- second straight year that the ministry was no provided data, so level of activity may be dramatically different than reported
- growth in number of online providers
- funding mechanism continues to preference out of district enrollment

### 3.10 British Columbia (BC)

5,437,722	Population
1,950	Number of K-12 Schools
680,013	Number of K-12 Students
69	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
68,402	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- regulation and designations necessary to implement online learning provisions of *Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020*
  - implementation of Provincial Online Learning Schools (POLs) and District Online Learning Schools (DOLS)
- activity level remains consistent

### 3.11 Yukon (YT)

43,744	Population
33	Number of K-12 Schools
5,960	Number of K-12 Students
2	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
318	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- activity in both online and blended programs is consistent

### 3.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

45,605	Population
49	Number of K-12 Schools
8,700	Number of K-12 Students
2	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
177	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



- 10-year education renewal process, *Education Renewal and Innovation*, was launched in 2013
  - the Northern Distance Learning was a significant part in achieving those priorities, as such it will undergo a formal evaluation in 2023-2025
- activity level remains consistent

### 3.13 Nunavut (NV)

39,407 Population

45 Number of K-12 Schools

10,902 Number of K-12 Students

0 Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs

Unknown Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



*no Ministerial update*

- no data since 2020-21 school year



## 3.14 Federal

1,807,250 <sup>1</sup>	Population
517 <sup>2</sup>	Number of K-12 Schools
~114,158 <sup>3</sup>	Number of K-12 Students
4	Number of K-12 E-Learning Programs
3,500	Number of K-12 E-Learning Students



*1 2021 Census data*

*2 refers to those reporting a 2022-23 nominal roll directly to ISC*

Resolution No. 16/2016 passed by the Chiefs Council on Education (CCOE), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) engaged with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) called upon the Government of Canada to engage in an Honourable Process to Develop Recommendations to support First Nations Education Reform

- ceased providing program level data following the 2017-18 school year
- at least four K-12 distance/online learning programs designated as Indigenous programs

# 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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