

# North Dakota State Profile

**The North Dakota Center for Distance Education, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.**

*Updated September 2023*

The [North Dakota Center for Distance Education](#) (CDE) is the state virtual school, providing online courses to an average of over 2,800 students annually from SY 2020-21 through the 2022-23 SY. The CDE is a state agency that is under the umbrella of the to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and reports to the North Dakota Board of Public Education. Students may enroll full-time in NDCDE's diploma program or may take online courses to supplement their class schedules. There is some activity at the district level. Multi-district fully online schools are not permitted to operate in North Dakota.

State virtual school?	YES
Multi-district fully online schools?	ONE
State approval process for online providers?	NO
State approval process for online courses?	NO

CDE offers over 350 digital courses including career and technical education, dual credit, core requirements, and electives courses. Students receive 20 weeks to complete courses asynchronously. Students from nearly all of the 169 ND school districts participate in CDE courses annually. Grades 6-12 enrollments comprised approximately 96% of CDE enrollments and 85% of online courses provided. The CDE is in the process of migrating to competency-based model to allow students to demonstrate mastery in the course content.

As a result of the pandemic, the state authorized districts to establish virtual academies (Chapter 67-30-02). North Dakota districts operated [25 such online schools](#) in SY 2022-23. Some of these academies use the CDE as its curriculum and instructional provider. A recent change to the law allows ND students to open enroll in any public virtual academy with limited exceptions and allows any public school-enrolled student to take a CDE course with the district of enrollment paying the cost.

Some of the district virtual academies include:

- [Dickinson Public Schools](#) provides full-time options for resident students in grades 9-12.
- Mandan Public Schools' [Virtual Academy](#) offers full-time options for students in grades K-12.
- [Fargo Virtual Academy](#) offers virtual learning for K-12 students living within the Fargo Public Schools district.
- Minot Public Schools' [Virtual Academy](#) serves students in grades 6-12.

## **State Policies**

The North Dakota Center for Distance Education has an entire chapter of state law, outlining its scope of authority to offer distance education and its governing structure, [NDCC Ch. 15.19](#).

State code [NDCC Ch. 15.1-31](#) (2023) on open enrollment allows a student to enroll full-time in another public school district, including a public virtual academy. North Dakota has two chapters of administrative code that govern virtual learning with the aim of strengthening accountability and quality for virtual instruction. Virtual learning arrangements must keep track of attendance and classroom progress just as is done during normal classroom instruction.

- ND Administrative Code Chapter [67-30-02](#) establishes North Dakota Century Code for any physical school district to create and operate a virtual academy/school.
- ND Administrative Code Chapter [67-30-01](#) outlines policy and North Dakota Century Code for schools to implement digital education during an emergency such as inclement weather and not lose their per pupil funding.

State law on virtual instruction options for military-connected students, those with a medical condition, and those moving out of state can be found in [NDCC 15.1-07-37](#).

[\*DLC State Profile Key Terms\*](#)