

2025-26 Year-End Report:
Distributed Learning Committee

To the NSTU Provincial Executive

Committee members: Amanda O'Regan Marchand, Chair NSTU, Simon Wilkin sitting in for Amanda, Laura Fryday -NSTU, Eliza Abbass-NSTU & NSVS teacher, Chris Cocek NSVS Registrar, Lael Radkey Coordinator Distributed learning EECD, Danielle Boyd-Farrell NSVS Instructional Lead, Alexander MacDougall Director, Digital/Virtual learning division ESCD, Patrice Neville-Martin NSTU.

The committee typically meets three times each year. Meeting dates are established by committee members during the previous year to maximize member availability and participation. Meeting dates were set for November 14, 2025, February 27th, and May 22, 2026. In-person meetings were set to take place at EECD at 2021 Brunswick Street in November and May, with February set aside as a virtual meeting.

Committee Meeting- Friday, November 14, 2025

Partners at EECD had to reschedule this meeting. I reached out to Amanda O'Regan Marchand on January 31, who had not heard from their counterpart at EECD to reschedule.

Virtual Meeting – May 4, 2026

The committee met virtually on May 4 to discuss several key issues related to distributed learning and provincial virtual education. Topics included:

The application of reasonable equivalent work hours for teachers.

Ensuring appropriate time and resources for teachers delivering distributed learning courses.

Professional development opportunities for educators.

Technological changes affecting course delivery.

A review of the 2025–2026 NSVS and NSIOL course offerings.

Discussion of the 2026–2027 NSVS and NSIOL course offerings, including registration trends and course clusters identified in specific subject areas.

Committee Meeting – May 22, 2026

The committee met on May 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Key discussion points included:

2025-26 Year-End Report:
Distributed Learning Committee

Concerns regarding courses being offered exclusively through NSVS when they may be viable for in-person delivery within local schools. This is a shift that has raised concerns.

Discussion around student supervision responsibilities at school sites. Currently, some schools rely on school counselors to monitor students enrolled in virtual courses; however, with changes resulting from the new collective agreement, school counselors will have additional responsibilities that may impact their availability for this role.

Ongoing concerns related to the BigBlueButton platform. While technical issues continue to be reported by some teachers, current information suggests that these challenges are primarily site-based rather than system-wide.

Summary

The committee continues to monitor issues related to distributed learning, teacher workload, technology, and student support. Future discussions could focus on ensuring equitable access to in-person and virtual courses, clarifying supervision responsibilities with centres, and improving the technological experience for both teachers and students.