

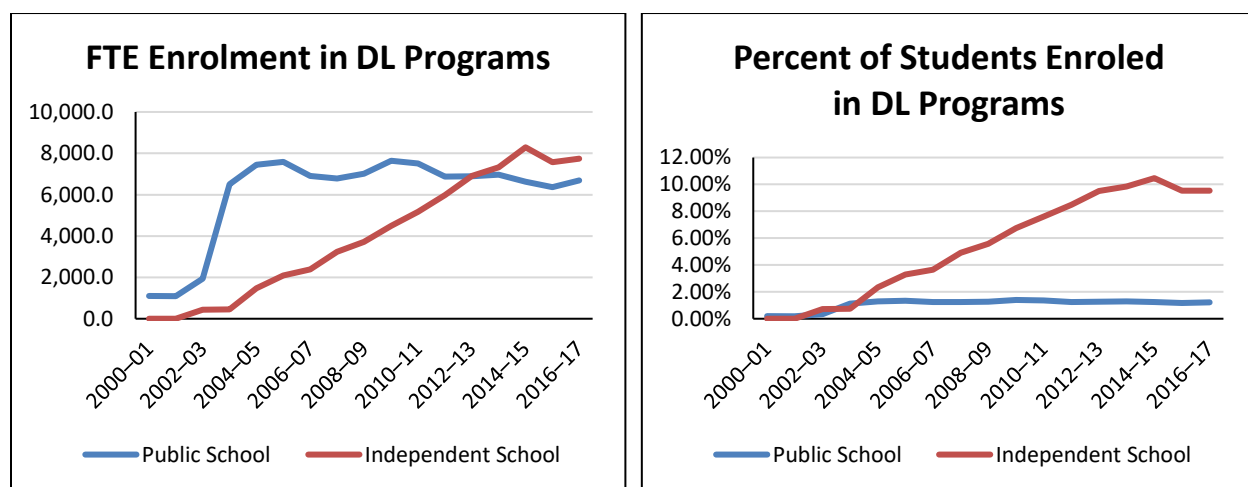
## Distributed Learning

**Distributed learning (DL) is a method of teaching students outside of traditional schools using online and other electronic-based delivery methods.**

The *School Act* defines distributed learning as “a method of instruction that relies primarily on indirect communication between students and teachers, including internet or other electronic-based delivery, teleconferencing or correspondence.”<sup>1</sup> With prior agreement of the Minister of Education, a board may provide all or part of an educational program by distributed learning.<sup>2</sup>

**Student enrolled in DL programs in public schools have remained roughly the same, while enrolment in distributed learning in independent schools has increased dramatically.**

Enrolment in DL programs in public schools experienced a significant surge around 2003–04. Since then, however, it has slowly declined. Since 2004–05, the percent of enrolment in DL programs in public schools have remained steady at about 1.2%. In comparison, enrolment in DL programs in independent schools have grown steadily and now outnumber DL enrolments in public schools. Starting in 2012–13, about 10% of student enrolments in independent schools are in DL programs.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> BC Ministry of Education (2016). “Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1996.” *School Act*. Victoria: Governance and Legislation Branch.

<sup>2</sup> BC Ministry of Education (2016). “Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1996.” *School Act*. Victoria: Governance and Legislation Branch.

<sup>3</sup> BC Ministry of Education. (2004–17). *Student Statistics – (Various Years) Province - Public and Independent Schools Combined*. Victoria: Government of British Columbia.