

FAQs

THIS IS ME



STUDENT IDENTITY-BASED DATA COLLECTION PROJECT



1. PROJECT PURPOSE

From April 29 to May 10, 2019, all NNDSB students in Grades 7-12 and parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to participate in a system-wide survey entitled, “This is Me Survey”. The purpose of this survey is to bring clarity to our diverse student population and enhance understanding of our students. The overall findings will be used to:

- Identify and eliminate systemic barriers to student success;
- Create more equitable and inclusive school environments; and,
- Improve student achievement and well-being.

The NNDSB looks forward to using the survey as an opportunity to honour our students’ voices and be responsive to their needs.

2. WHAT DATA ARE WE COLLECTING?

Data will be collected on a voluntary basis and will include subjects like race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity (kindergarten to grade 6 students will not answer questions related to sexual orientation). The survey offers multiple response options and examples of survey questions include:

- What is your religion and/or spiritual affiliation
- What is your first language(s) you learned to speak as a child?
- Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?
- What is your ethnic or cultural origin?

3. HOW WILL NNDSB’S “THIS IS ME” SURVEY BE COMPLETED?

Families of students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 are invited to complete the online survey with their children at home. Students in Grade 7-12 will complete the online survey at school. School administrators will work with staff to ensure that all students, including those attending alternative programs, receive their invitation to participate in the survey.

4. IS THE SURVEY AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS?

For accessibility purposes, all of the accommodations, supports and assistive technology necessary to ensure that every student has the opportunity to participate in the survey will be provided.

5. HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE USED?

Data collected will bring clarity to our diverse student population. What we learn about our students will guide us to best support school experiences for all our students.

6. WHO DETERMINED THE SURVEY QUESTIONS?

The survey was created by the Ministry of Education's Equity Secretariat as part of the Identity-based data project and have been aligned with the Anti-Racism Data Standards.

7. IS THE COMPLETION OF THE SURVEY MANDATORY?

Full participation would produce optimal results; however, students and families can opt out.

8. HOW LONG WILL THE SURVEY TAKE TO COMPLETE?

Individuals will require approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the survey. Schools will be allotted the weeks of April 29 to May 10, to ensure that parents of children in K-6 as well as all grade 7-12 students have the opportunity to complete the survey.

9. WHAT IF A STUDENT IN GRADE 7-12 CANNOT COMPLETE THE SURVEY DUE TO A LEARNING EXCEPTIONALITY?

Some students may find it challenging to complete the survey. A parent or guardian can request they complete the survey on the child's behalf.

10. I HAVE MULTIPLE CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A SEPARATE SURVEY FOR EACH STUDENT?

Yes, you will need to fill out a separate survey for each child. Each questionnaire is linked separately to each student's ID (Student Number).

11. IS THE SURVEY CONFIDENTIAL?

The survey is voluntary and confidential but not anonymous. All information will be collected and housed by the NNDSB and accessed only by our Data Analyst. Individual student identities, as it relates to data, will not be shared in isolation. The information collected will never identify a student or family and reports will only be developed in a summarized way to identify and address any barriers and to establish effective practices.

12. WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE SURVEY RESULTS?

Once responses are processed and analyzed, the NNDSB will produce a series of reports to help inform board and school decision-making for programs and instruction. School staff will not have access to individual student results. Data reports or analysis will never single out a student. By law, the NNDSB cannot reveal individualized information for any student/parent who completes the survey.

13. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY?

Students in Grades 7 to 12 will participate in the survey during class time. Students who are not participating in the survey will complete other school work during this time.

14. WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT (MY CHILD) TO ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS?

Completing the survey is voluntary. All participants have the option to skip questions they do not wish to answer.

15. DOES THE COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION VIOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODE OR THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY?

No. The collection of identity-based data is supported by Canada's human rights legislative framework, including the Canadian Human Rights Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code, and section 15(2) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Ontario Human Rights Code permits and encourages the collection and analysis of identity data for the purposes of: identifying and removing systemic barriers; preventing discrimination; and promoting equity and inclusivity.

16. CAN I VIEW A COPY OF THE SURVEY BEFORE MY CHILD PARTICIPATES?

Yes. A copy of the survey will be made available on our Board Website.

17. LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any questions regarding the "This is Me" Survey, please contact Project Lead Karen Waller at thisisme@nearnorthschools.ca or your school principal. Additional information about the survey can be found online at www.nearnorthschools.ca/thisisme

This important initiative will help us work together to create equitable and inclusive school environments. Parents and guardians are our strongest partners in education and we thank you for your support.