



Dear Parents/Guardians:

YRDSB 2020-2021 Student and Family Surveys

Student and family input is important to us. The York Region District School Board will be conducting two surveys to collect feedback from students (Grades 7-12) and families (Grades K-12) to understand their experiences of learning during this school year.

Surveys will be available online between **May 26 and June 18, 2021**. All students in Grades 7-12 will be invited to participate in the Student Survey. Families of students in Grades K-12 will be invited to complete the Family Survey. Surveys will take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

The surveys will include questions related to: remote learning; technology and learning tools; student engagement; safety, discrimination and bullying; mental health and well-being; equity and inclusive learning environments; and family/school communication. We also ask questions about students' identities (e.g., race and gender) in order to understand how learning experiences may differ among groups of students, and to promote a safe and inclusive school climate for all students.

The Family Survey will be available online in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. To accommodate participants with varying exceptionalities, both the family and student surveys can be completed using voice recognition software such as Google Read & Write. For your reference, a copy of the surveys as well as translated versions of the Family Survey and this email are available on the [YRDSB website](#).

Surveys are **anonymous and confidential**. No information will be collected that has the potential to identify individuals. Surveys are **voluntary** and respondents will have the option to skip any questions they do not want to answer.

Information provided in these surveys will only be accessible by staff in YRDSB's Research and Assessment Services Department. The third party data collection tool we use will also have access to responses until Research and Assessment Services' removes them after the surveys are closed. Storage and retention of data will follow [Board Policy and Procedure #160.0 Records and Information Management](#).

Results from the surveys will be used to support student achievement and well-being, monitor school progress, create more equitable and inclusive school environments and inform school and Board planning. Results will be shared with Trustees, schools, Board departments, and the public in Fall, 2021.

Students in Grades 7-12 will receive an email notifying them that a survey will be available. When the survey opens, students will receive an invitation to complete the Student Survey through their GAPPS school account. Parents/guardians will receive an invitation to complete the Family Survey through the email address that is on file at their child's school.

If you do not want your child(ren) in Grades 7-12 to receive the Student Survey invitation, please contact research.services@yrdsb.ca **no later than May 24, 2021.**

This important initiative will help further our vision as we work together to listen to the voices of students and families to continue meeting their diverse needs. Thank you for your support.