



*This letter is also available in the following languages:* English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

### **YRDSB 2021-22 Student and Family Surveys**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Student and family input is important to us. The York Region District School Board will be conducting online surveys with students (Grades 7-12) and families (Grades K-12) between **June 1 - 30, 2022** to better understand experiences of learning this school year. Surveys will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

The surveys will include questions related to:

- learning model, technology, and learning tools
- engagement and learning
- family/school communication and community engagement
- well-being and mental health
- relationships with peers and staff
- safety, discrimination and bullying
- equitable and inclusive learning environments
- student identity

We ask questions about students' identities (e.g., race and gender) to support understanding how learning experiences may differ among groups of students. Results from the surveys will be shared with Trustees, schools, Board departments, and the public during the 2022-23 school year.

The information collected will be used to:

- Provide important information about student mental health and well-being.
- Identify systemic barriers in order to create healthy, inclusive, and equitable learning and working environments.
- Create programs, set priorities, and develop resources to continue building inclusive, welcoming, and supportive environments where all feel they matter and belong.

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. The questions in the survey are compatible with screen readers. For your reference, copies of both the student and family surveys are available on the [board website](#).

Surveys are anonymous and confidential. This means that students and families will not be asked for their name, and individual responses will not be reported. Surveys are **voluntary** and respondents may 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](#).

Students in Grades 7-12 will receive an email invitation to their GAPPS school account to participate in the Student Survey and will be provided with in-class time between June 1 and June 30 to complete the survey. If you do not want your child(ren) in Grades 7-12 to receive the Student Survey invitation or if you have questions about the survey, please contact [research.services@yrdsb.ca](mailto:research.services@yrdsb.ca) **no later than May 26, 2022**. Parents/guardians will receive an invitation to complete the Family Survey through the email address that is on file at their child's school.

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.