



2017 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS KEY FINDINGS

HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary	Secondary
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From May 1 to May 31, 2017, all parents/guardians of students in grades K to 12 were invited to participate in the YRDSB School Climate Survey for Parents/Guardians. Results from this survey will be used to inform Board and school improvement planning to support student achievement and well-being, and create more equitable and inclusive school environments.

This report summarizes responses from the survey.

Overall Survey Response Rate

Parents/ Guardians

24%

13,897 parents/guardians of elementary students

3,636 parents/guardians of secondary students

* Parent surveys typically yield return rates of 30% or less

26% response rate

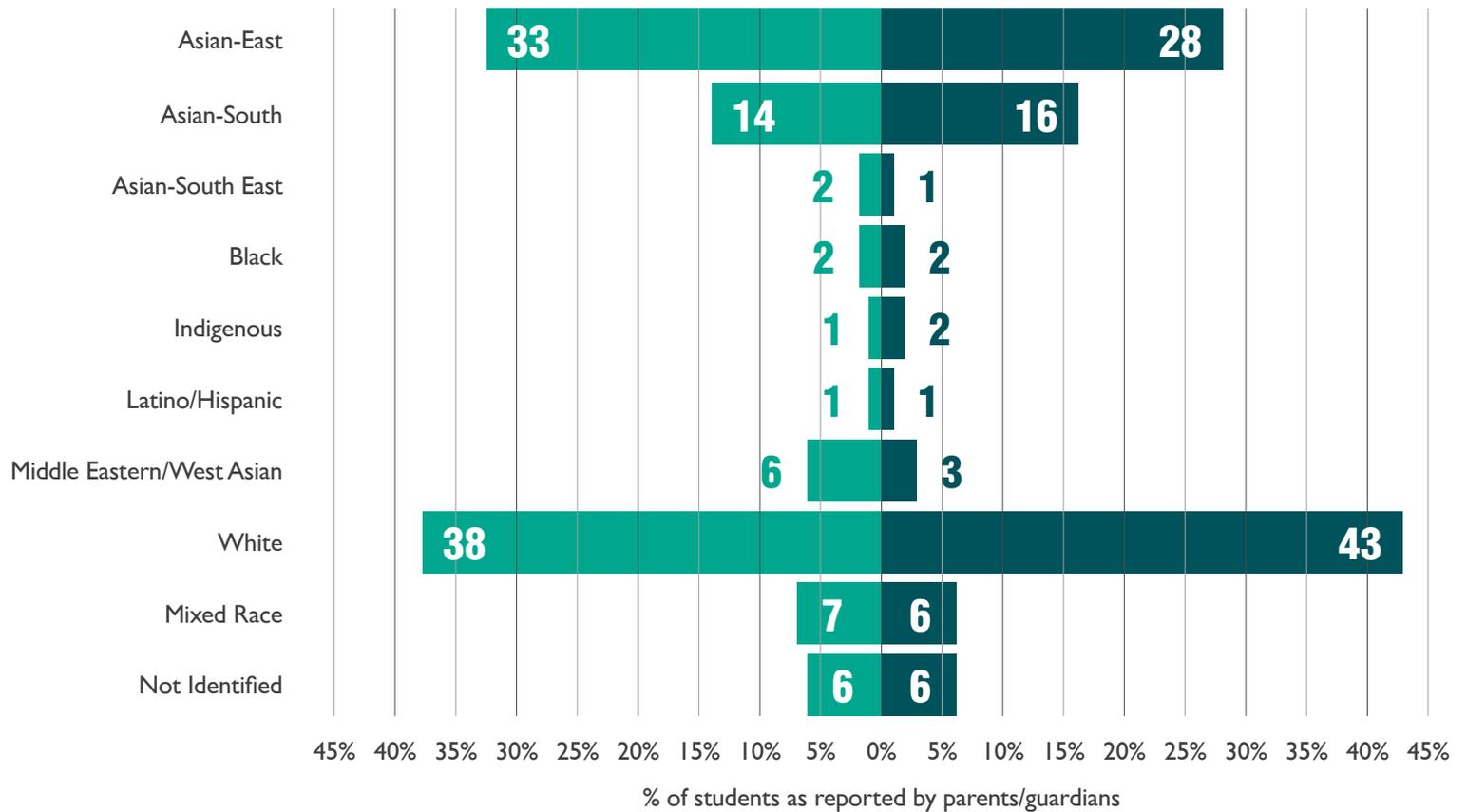
12% response rate

5% ↑

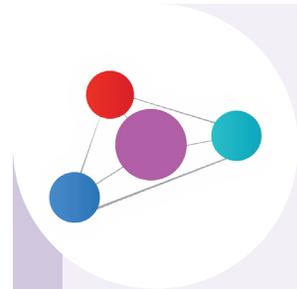
increase from 2014 survey

Next Steps: Continue to promote and enhance participation in the school climate survey through multiple strategies.

Parents'/Guardians' Self-Report of their Child's Racial/Ethnic Background



Percentages may not sum to 100% as parents/guardians could choose more than one category



MODERN LEARNING

Elementary Secondary

I talk to my child about using social media safely.

89% 95%

The instruction my child receives is relevant and has real life connections.

83% 75%

My child is interested in what he/she is learning at school.

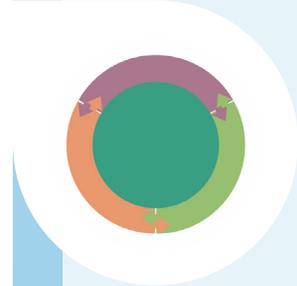
88% 85%

This school keeps me well informed about what my child is learning.

71% 72%

Next Steps and Resources

- Continue to engage students in learning that is interesting and connected to real life issues (e.g., [MLonAIR](#), [Artonomy](#), [Agents of Change](#), [BreakoutEDU](#), [EdTech Camp](#)).
- Implement classroom practices that strengthen home-school connections and integrate the voice of families to personalize student learning.
- Promote the [YRDSB Modern Learning Strategy](#) and enhance parents'/guardians' understanding and engagement in the strategy.



MATH

School staff share resources with me that support math learning at home.

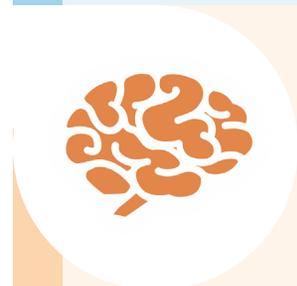
55% 36%

The school provides opportunities for families to engage in math together

62% 32%

Next Steps and Resources

- Enhance the YRDSB math webpage with additional resources to support families in learning about math and share this information in classroom communications to parents/guardians. [Learn more about](#) resources to help parents/guardians support their children in mathematics.
- Promote and increase engagement in [family math nights](#).
- Increase awareness of the [YRDSB Math Strategy](#) and enhance parents'/guardians' understanding and engagement in the strategy.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In general, my child likes who he/she is as a person.

95% 91%

I know where to go to get help if my child needed supports related to mental health.

62% 70%

I am satisfied with the information the school provides about community agencies and their services.

51% 54%

Next Steps and Resources

- Enhance school communication to parents/guardians to ensure they are aware of community agencies, mental health services and resources.
- [The ABC's of Mental Health](#).
- York Region Mental Health [Resource List](#).
- [211 Ontario: Community Resources](#).
- Increase awareness of the [YRDSB Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) and enhance parents'/guardians' understanding and engagement in the strategy.



CARING AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Elementary

Secondary

My child feels safe at this school.

94% **93%**

I am aware of the anonymous reporting button called [Report IT!](#) on the school and Board websites.

20% **26%**

16% and **9%** of parents/guardians indicated that their child has stayed away, or wanted to stay away from school to avoid being bullied.

Next Steps and Resources

- Refine, expand and monitor practices to support bullying prevention (e.g., [Anti-Bullying Mandate](#), school/family resources on [bullying](#) and [cyberbullying](#)).
- Increase awareness of YRDSB's [Report IT!](#) button which allows students to anonymously report bullying.
- Increase awareness of the [YRDSB Caring & Safe Schools Strategy](#) and enhance parents'/guardians' understanding and engagement in the strategy.



EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

84% and **81%** of parents/guardians indicated that they always/often feel welcome at their child's school.

Diversity is respected at my child's school.

87% **83%**

20% and **22%** parents/guardians indicated that they feel there are **barriers** that stand in the way of their child's **learning** at school.

9% and **13%** parents/guardians indicated that they feel there are **barriers** to their child's participation in **field trips, graduation trips, clubs, teams** or **other extra-curricular activities**.

The **top barriers** reported were their child's **Special Education needs** and **grades/marks**.

The **top three barriers** reported include: **YRDSB online payment system**, their **child's special education needs** and **cost**.

Next Steps and Resources

- Identify biases and barriers to the physical, academic, and social learning environments in partnership with students and families of intersecting identities (e.g., gender, race, ethnicity, special education needs, etc.); and develop strategies to remove these barriers.
- Increase awareness of the [YRDSB Equity Action Plan](#) and enhance parents'/guardians' understanding and engagement in the strategy.
- Learn more about [Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan](#).
- Please refer to the [Special Education](#) page to review supports available to students with Special Education needs.