

Welcome to the 2023 TDSB Student Census!

The Census is an opportunity for you to share who you are and your experiences at school. Students have had a say in what questions are being asked.

The Census is **voluntary**, but we hope that you will complete it.

The Census is **confidential**. No one will see your individual answers. You will not get in trouble or hurt anyone's feelings with your answers.

The Census is **not anonymous**. Though no one will see your individual answers, your survey answers are linked to your student ID number so that researchers who work for the school board can match your survey results with other pieces of data like grades. This helps to identify barriers that impact groups of students, which is the main goal of the Census. No individual students will be identified and student answers are never examined at the individual level.

. Do you wish to participate in the TDSB Student Census?

- I agree to participate
- I do not agree to participate

Note. Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of sections 27, 58.5(1), 169.1-173, 265, 266(2.1) of Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2 ("Education Act"), R.R.O. 1990, Regulations 298 (Operation of Schools – General) under Education Act, Anti-Racism Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 15 ("Anti-Racism Act"), and O. Reg. 267/18: General under Anti-Racism Act, 2017, S.O. 2017, c. 15, and will be used by TDSB for educational and research purposes, to support TDSB and schools to provide effective education programs and services, and to improve schools to better meet the needs of our diverse learners. This information is collected, retained, used, and disclosed in accordance with

the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M56 ("MFIPPA") and will be shared with authorized TDSB and school staff and approved research organizations on agreement with TDSB, if required, in order to administer the above purposes. Questions regarding this collection should be directed to your principal and local school administration or Senior Manager, TDSB Research Department by email at research@tdsb.on.ca, by phone at 416-394-7404, or by mail at 1 Civic Centre Court, Lower Level, Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2B3.

Questions

How to complete the Census

- Please complete this survey on your own.
- If you do not understand a question, you can move on to the next one.
- If you do not want to answer a question, you can move on to the next one. If you are uncomfortable answering a question, you can talk to your teacher.
- For each question, please choose the single best answer that is right for you by clicking the circle.
- Some questions will say "Select all that apply" and for these you can choose more than one answer.
- The questions are about your experience at school this school year - since September.
- There is one wellness break in the survey. When you get to it, make sure to stretch and take a break.

Q1. Since September, I feel happy.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q2. I look forward to going to school.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q3. I enjoy school.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q4. At school, I can be myself.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q5. At school, rules are applied to me in a fair way.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q6. At school, I feel left out (like in games, school activities, friend groups, etc.).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q7. At school, I feel accepted by my classmates.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q8. At school, I have at least one friend I can count on for help and comfort.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q9. Since September, I feel lonely.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q10. My feelings matter to my teachers.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q11. I feel respected by my teachers.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q12. My teachers check-in with me when I am upset.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q13. My teachers provide the help I need to do well at school.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q14. I feel comfortable asking my teachers for extra help with my school work (if I need it).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q15. I feel comfortable participating in class (like asking questions, answering questions, joining activities and discussions, etc.)

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q16. How often do you participate in class (like asking questions, answering questions, joining activities and discussions, etc.)?

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q17. Since September, how often do you feel under a lot of stress or pressure?

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q18. Since September, how often do you feel nervous or worried?

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q19. At school, there are space(s) I feel comfortable using to de-stress and/or take care of my mental health.

Yes

No

No, but I would like a space

Not sure

Q20. Over the past week, how many days did you get a good night's sleep (like wake up feeling rested)?

Every day

5-6 days

3-4 days

1-2 days

No days

Q21. Over the past week, how many days did you engage in physical activity for at least one hour (that increased your heart rate and made you breathe hard)?

Every day

5-6 days

3-4 days

1-2 days

No days

Q22. Over the past week, how many days did you eat breakfast (at home or provided at school)?

Every day

5-6 days

3-4 days

1-2 days

No days

Q23. My teachers encourage me to be the best student that I can be.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q24. My teachers take time to get to know me.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q25. My teachers pronounce my name correctly and/or use my preferred name to refer to me.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q26. My teachers use my preferred pronouns (like she/her, he/his, they/them, etc.) to refer to me.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q27. Is there a teacher in your school that you feel comfortable going to for support, advice, or help?

Yes

Sometimes

No

No, but I wish there was

Not sure

Q28. My teachers take my classes outside for learning (not including recess).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q29. I like what we learn in class.

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

. This section asks questions about your **identity**, and how things you see, hear, or learn in school reflect your identity. Your identity can be shaped by things like who you are, how you think about yourself, and how other people see you.

Sometimes, we can be treated differently in school based on our identity. The Census tries to find out what issues students are facing at their school. The Census can be really helpful for telling school leaders the kinds of things that should be improved for different groups of students at the TDSB. We learn about different groups of students by asking identity questions (like gender, culture, race, etc.).

. **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit** are some of the terms used to identify Indigenous people in what is now known as Canada.

Indigenous identity is complex and Indigenous people in Canada can refer to themselves with many other terms such as Native, Aboriginal, name of their Nation, etc. Knowing this information can help TDSB to develop programs and supports for Indigenous students in collaboration with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre.

Q30. Do you identify as an Indigenous person?
(Select all that apply)

- No, I do not identify as Indigenous
- Yes, First Nations
- Yes, Métis
- Yes, Inuit
- Yes, but not sure how to identify / which option to select
- Yes, but prefer to use my own words:

Q31. Are you Two-Spirit or Indigiqueer?

Yes

No

Q32. At school, I learn about:

(Select all that apply)

- Traditional territories of Indigenous communities my school is built on
- Treaty Lands my school is built on
- Indigenous Land based perspectives and experiences
- First Nations Reserves closest to my school
- I have not learned about these topics

Q33. At school, I have opportunities to learn from Indigenous community members (like Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists, writers, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

No, but I would like to

Not sure

. **Ethnic, cultural, or national groups** usually have a similar culture, language and/or religion. They often have a shared identity, heritage, ancestry, or historical past.

Ideas about who belongs to a **race** can be based on physical features (like skin colour, eyes, hair, etc.). People are often described as belonging to a certain "race" based on how others see and behave toward them. There can often be several ethnic, cultural, or national identities within a racialized group.

These questions ask about your ethnic, cultural, national, and racial identity. Since there are so many unique identities in the TDSB, these options might not capture everyone. If that is the case, feel free to describe your identity in your own words.

Q34. What is your ethnic or cultural origin(s)?

Q35. Which race category best describes you? (Select all that apply)

If you identify as mixed race or more than one group applies to you, please select all the options that apply.

For example:

- if you are Afro-Latinx, you can select both “Black” and “Latino / Latina / Latinx”;
- if you identify as Afro-Indigenous, you can select both “Black” and “Indigenous”;
- if you identify as Chinese and White, you can select both “East Asian” and “White”, etc.

- Black** (like African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent, etc.)
- East Asian** (like Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent, etc.)
- Indigenous** (like First Nations, Métis, Inuit descent, etc.)
- Latino / Latina / Latinx** (like Latin American, Hispanic descent, etc.)
- Middle Eastern** (like Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)
- Southeast Asian** (like Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent, etc.)
- South Asian** (South Asian descent, e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean, etc.)
- White** (like European descent, etc.)
- Prefer to use my own words
- I don't understand this question

Q35a. If you would like to share more information about your Black identity, please select all that apply:

- African (like Somali, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Ghanaian, etc.)
- Afro-Caribbean (like St. Lucian, Jamaican, Vincentian, Trinidadian, Tobagonian, Haitian, etc.)
- Black (prefer to use my own words):

Q35b. If you would like to share more information about your Indigenous identity, please select all that apply:

- First Nations
- Inuit / Inuk
- Métis
- Indigenous communities outside of what is now known as Canada (like Native Mexican, Native Alaskan, Native American, Aboriginal Person of Australia, Adivasi, Pacific Islander, Indigenous Person of Abya Yala (currently known as Latin America), etc.) (specify optional):
- Indigenous (prefer to use my own words):

Q36. At school, I feel comfortable expressing my ethnic or racial identity (like wearing a durag, keffiyeh, cultural clothing, etc.).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

. Religion is a set of beliefs about how the world was made, its purpose, and ideas about how people should act. There are many different religions, each with a different set of beliefs. People may practice a religion or may practice none.

Q37. What is your religion or spiritual belief? Are you: (Select all that apply)

- Buddhist
- Christian (like Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, etc.)
- Hindu
- Indigenous Spirituality
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Spiritual, but not religious
- I believe in something, but just not sure yet
- Another religion or belief not in this list:
- Religion is not a part of my life
- I do not understand this question

Q38. At school, I feel comfortable expressing my religious or spiritual identity (like wearing a cross, hijab, kippah, turban; praying, smudging, etc.).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Religion is not a part of my life

. Your **gender identity** is how you think or feel about your gender on the inside - as a girl, boy, both, neither or anywhere on the gender spectrum. There are many ways a person can describe their gender identity and many labels a person can use, and these differ across cultures.

Q39.

How would you describe your current gender identity in your own words?

Q40. Thank you for telling us about your current gender identity in your own words. Sometimes we need to use categories to present survey findings.

Which of the following terms best describe your current gender identity? (Select all that apply)

- Boy
- Girl
- Non-Binary, N.B. or enby
- Not sure of my gender identity
- Transgender or Trans
- Two-Spirit or Indigiqueer
- Another identity not in this list (specify).
- I do not understand this question

Q41. At school, I feel comfortable expressing my gender identity (like the way I dress, the length or style of my hair, the way I act or speak, etc.).

All the time Often Sometimes Rarely Never

Q42. In my classes, I learn about people with different kinds of families (like those with two moms or two dads).

Yes Sometimes No No, but I would like to Not sure

. A **disability** is a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory condition, felt in the body or the mind, that may affect how a student participates in school. Some disabilities are permanent, or last forever. Others might only last for a short time. Some disabilities may be visible or not visible to others. Different cultures view disabilities differently. Disabilities can make it difficult for a student to function in an environment that

is not fully inclusive and accessible. Some students who have disabilities may have a special plan at school to help them (an Individual Education Plan or IEP), but some do not.

Q43. Are you a student with a disability or a disabled person?

Yes

No

Not sure

I don't understand this question

Q44. If you want to, please tell us which disability or disabilities you have.

Q45. At school, I learn about people with disabilities.

Yes

Sometimes

No

No, but I would like to

Not sure

Q46. At school, I learn about mental health and well-being. Please select all the topics you learn about:

Things I can do to take care of my mental health

How to reach out and ask for help

Who can help me at school

Where to go for help in the community

How to help a friend without taking on too much

Other (specify):

None of these

We know that was a lot of reading. Take a wellness break!

Breathing and noticing



Let's continue if you are completing the Census in one class period.

Q47. At school, the following people have assumed I don't speak English well: (Select all that apply)

- Teachers
- Other students
- Other school staff
- Nobody has assumed I don't speak English well

Q48. At school, I see my identity positively shown in books or materials teachers use in class (like stories or pictures of people who look like me, have the same race, culture, religion, gender, different abilities).

Yes

Sometimes

No

No, but I would like to

Not sure

Q49. At school, I have opportunities to learn from guests who have the same identity as me (like same race, culture, religion, gender, different abilities, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

No, but I would like to

Not sure

Q50. At school, I have opportunities to give input about what I learn in my classes (like topics we study, books we read, etc.).

All the time

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

Q51. At school, I have opportunities to give input about: (Select all that apply)

- Clubs and activities
- Events
- Rules and policies
- Class materials and textbook choices
- Other (specify):
- None of the above

Q52. At school, I have opportunities to talk about what the school can do better to help students.

All the time Often Sometimes Rarely Never

. This section asks about **safety**. Feeling safe at school means feeling comfortable, relaxed, and not worried that someone or something could harm you physically or emotionally.

Q53. How safe do you feel at school?

Very safe Somewhat safe Not very safe Not at all safe

Q54. How safe do you feel on the way to school and on the way home from school?

Very safe Somewhat safe Not very safe Not at all safe

Q55. At school, do you feel unsafe or afraid in any of these spaces? (Select all that apply)

- Academic clubs (like STEM, robotics)
- Clubs (like drama, band, arts, choir, chess)
- Classrooms
- Hallways/stairwells
- Health and Physical Education or gym class
- Library
- Lunchroom
- Prayer space/room

- Single gender washrooms
- All-gender washrooms
- School events (like dances, assemblies, etc.)
- Sports (like track and field, house leagues, sports teams)
- School buses
- Outside on school grounds (like at recess, lunch or afterschool)
- In the neighbourhood around the school
- Other spaces not listed above (specify):
- Doesn't apply to me - I don't feel unsafe or afraid in any school spaces

Q56. What makes you feel unsafe or afraid at school? (Select all that apply)

- The way I look
- How well I do at school work
- I have a disability
- My gender
- My family is different from other families
- My race or ethnic background
- My religion
- I am new to Canada
- Other reason (specify):
- Doesn't apply to me - I don't feel unsafe or afraid at school

Q57. Since September, how often do you feel hopeful about the future?

All the time Often Sometimes Rarely Never

. This section asks questions about **Bullying**. Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is typically repeated over time. It is meant to cause harm, fear or distress or create a negative environment at school for another person. Bullying can take on a number of different forms: physical, verbal, social or electronic, often called cyber-bullying.

Q58. How often are you being bullied at school?

All the time Often Sometimes Rarely Never

Q59. Are you being bullied in any of these ways by a student(s) at your school? (Select all that apply)

- hit, punched, kicked, tripped, or spit at (physically bullied)
- teased, called names, made fun of, or put down (verbally bullied)
- left out from a group, had rumours or lies spread about you (socially bullied)
- threatened or made to look bad using online games or on social media (cyber bullied)
- had your things stolen or damaged on purpose (like your books, school bag, clothing)

Q60. When you are bullied at school, how often do you tell a teacher or other adult at school?

- All the time Often Sometimes Rarely Never

Q61. The last time you told a teacher or other adult at school about bullying, how much did it help to stop the bullying?

- Helped a little Helped a lot Did not help at all

. The next few questions are about your parents/guardians/caregivers. By "parents/guardians/caregivers" we mean whoever you consider your parents to be. They could be your birth parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, or foster parents. It can be one person or more.

Please consider all your parents/guardians/caregivers when answering the following questions.

Q62. Who are the adult(s) you live with most of the time? Select the **best one** that describes you.

- Two parents (1 mother and 1 father, 1 parent and 1 step parent, 2 fathers, 2 mothers, etc.)
- One parent (like father or mother only)
- Part of the time with each parent (like in two different places)
- Parent(s) and other adult family members (like grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.)
- Only grandparent(s)
- Foster parent(s)
- Other adult siblings, relatives or guardians
- Other (specify):

Q63. Were your parent(s)/guardians(s)/caregiver(s) born in Canada?

- Two (or more) parents/guardians/caregivers born in Canada
- One parent/guardian/caregiver born in Canada
- No parent/guardian/caregiver born in Canada
- Not Sure

Q64. What education did your parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) complete? (in Canada or in any other country).

(Select all that apply)

- Elementary school (Kindergarten - Grade 8)
- Secondary school (Grade 9 - 12)
- Apprenticeship/skilled trades
- College
- University
- Not sure

Q65. Where did your parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) receive their highest level of education? (Select all that apply)

- Canada
- Another country (specify):
- Not sure

Survey Feedback

Q66. Overall, how easy did you find the survey to understand?

Very easy

Some what easy

Not that easy

Q67. How did you feel answering this survey? (Select all that apply)

- Comfortable
- Confused
- Happy

- Heard / Seen
- Uncomfortable
- Upset / Sad

Q68. Overall, how well did the survey questions capture your experiences as a student?

Very well

Somewhat well

Not well at all

Yay! You made it to the end of the survey. We have one last question for you.



Q69. If you were in charge of your school, what is one thing you would change about it?