

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](mailto: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 a teacher is helping you, they can select "student is not able to answer" for you.
- 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. Do you feel happy today?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q2. I look forward to going to school.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q3. I enjoy school.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q4. At school, I can be myself.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

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

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

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

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q7. At school, I have at least one friend I can count on for help and comfort.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q8. Do you feel lonely today?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q9. My feelings matter to my teachers.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q10. I feel respected by my teachers.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q11. My teachers check-in with me when I am upset.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q12. My teachers provide the help I need to do well at school.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q13. I feel comfortable asking my teachers for extra help with my school work (if I need it).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q14. I feel comfortable participating in class (like asking questions, answering questions, joining activities and discussions, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q15. Do you feel under a lot of stress or pressure today?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q16. Do you feel nervous or worried today?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q17. My teachers encourage me to be the best student that I can be.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q18. My teachers take time to get to know me.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q19. My teachers pronounce my name correctly and/or use my preferred name to refer to me.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q20. My teachers use my preferred pronouns (like she/her, he/his, they/them, etc.) to refer to me.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q21. Is there a teacher in your school that you feel comfortable going to for support, advice, or help?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q22. My teachers take my classes outside for learning (not including recess).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q23. I like what we learn in class.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q24. At school, I feel comfortable expressing my ethnic or racial identity (like wearing a durag, keffiyeh, cultural clothing, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q25. At school, I feel comfortable expressing my religious or spiritual identity (like wearing a cross, hijab, kippah, turban; praying, smudging, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Religion is not a part of my life

Student is not able to answer

Q26. 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, the choice of whether or not to wear make-up, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q27. In my classes, I learn about people with different kinds of families (like those with two moms or two

dads).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q28. At school, I learn about people with disabilities.

Yes

Sometimes

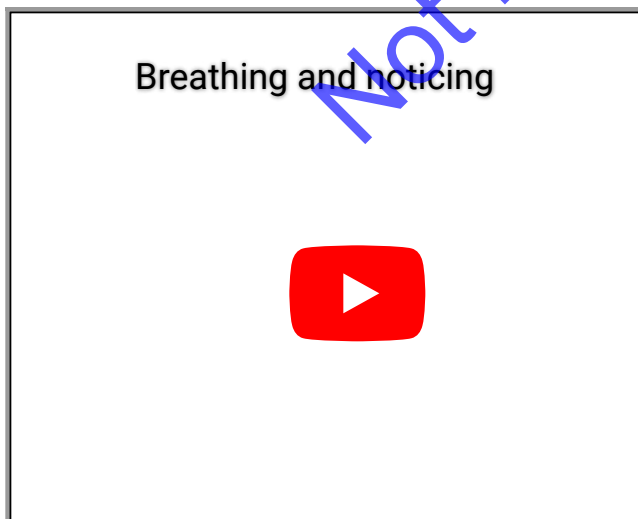
No

Student is not able to answer

Q29. 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 the above
- Student did not understand the question

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



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

Q30. 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

Student is not able to answer

Q31. 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

Student is not able to answer

Q32. At school, I have opportunities to give input about what I learn in my classes (like topics we study, books we read, etc.).

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q33. At school, I have opportunities to give input about:  
(Select all that apply)

Clubs and activities

Events

Rules and policies

New course offerings

Class materials and textbook choices

Other (specify):

None of the above

Student is not able to answer

Q34. At school, I have opportunities to talk about what the school can do better to help students.

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

. 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.

Q35. Do you feel safe at school?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q36. Do you feel safe on your way to and from school?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q37. 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
- Lunchroom
- Library
- Outside on school grounds (like at recess, lunch or afterschool)
- In the neighbourhood around the school
- Prayer space/room
- Single gender washrooms
- All-gender washrooms
- School buses
- School events (like dances, assemblies, etc)
- Sports (like track and field, house leagues, sports teams)
- Other spaces not listed above (specify):
- Doesn't apply to me - I don't feel unsafe or afraid in any school spaces
- Student is not able to answer

Q38. 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 reasons (specify):
- Doesn't apply to me - I don't feel unsafe or afraid at school
- Student not able to answer

. 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.

Q39. Are you being bullied at school?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q40. 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)

Q41. When you are bullied at school, do you tell a teacher or other adult at school?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

Q42. The last time you told a teacher or other adult at school about bullying, did it help to stop the bullying?

Yes

Sometimes

No

Student is not able to answer

## Post Secondary

. The next few questions ask you about your plans after you graduate from high school. We know there are lots of options to think about. All learning options are acceptable options. For the next few questions, think about what you want to do when you graduate high school.

Q43. After finishing high school, what do you want to do next?

- An apprenticeship/skilled trades
- Attend college
- Attend university
- Work full-time
- Not sure yet
- Other plans (specify):
- Student not able to answer

Q44. This past year, I have participated in the following career-related opportunities: (Select all that apply)

- Co-op
- Volunteer opportunities at my school
- Volunteer opportunities outside of school
- Internship
- Paid employment
- I have not participated in any of the above, but know how to access these opportunities.
- I do not know how to access these opportunities
- Student not able to answer

Q45. Thinking about graduation, in which of the following areas do you wish your school offered more support:

(Select all that apply)

- Learning more about my interests and strengths
- Extra-curriculars and clubs

- Career options
- Co-op placements
- Volunteer opportunities
- Leadership opportunities
- Internship opportunities
- Paid work opportunities
- Scholarships and financial aid
- Post secondary options
- Apprenticeship/skilled trades options
- Applying to post secondary
- Working with a guidance counsellor
- Other (specify):
- None of these areas
- Student not able to answer

Q46. As you think about your choices for post-secondary, do you have someone to talk to at school about your options?

- Yes     
  Sometimes     
  No     
  No, but I would like to     
  Not sure     
  Student not able to answer

### Survey Feedback

Q47. Overall, how easy did you find the survey to understand?

- Very easy     
  Somewhat easy     
  Not that easy

Q48. How did you feel answering this survey?  
(Select all that apply)

- Comfortable
- Confused
- Happy
- Heard / Seen
- Uncomfortable
- Upset / Sad

Q49. 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.



Q50. If you were in charge of your school, what is one thing you would change about it?

Not for data collection