



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1

Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711

Fax: 905-713-1272 • [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)

## Letter to Parents/Guardians/Caregivers about the 2024 YCDSB Student Census

February 15, 2024

Dear Families,

The York Catholic DSB will conduct the 2024 Student Census to support our mission of educating and inspiring all students to achieve their full potential in a safe and caring environment. All students from our high school will be invited to participate in the voluntary and confidential questionnaire.

The collection of demographic data is a Ministry of Education directive that directs school boards to gather data regularly to help us understand how student achievement is influenced by many factors, including race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economics, engagement, and sense of belonging.

The Student Census will provide our school and the board with information to help us better understand our students and their experiences in school and outside of school. The information provided will help us:

- Understand how learning experiences may differ among groups of students and the connection to their individual life experiences.
- Identify challenges and barriers to help students reach their full potential and achieve success.
- Use programs and resources that reflect students' identities and meet their unique needs.
- Allocate resources where they are needed the most.

The data we gathered from the 2021 Student Census has been used to shape the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the Student Mental Health & Well-Being Strategic Plan, and board and school improvement plans. It has also helped us to make informed decisions about pedagogy, programs, policies, partnerships, and services.

There are a few important things to note:

- The Student Census is voluntary and confidential but not anonymous, which means that no one will view individual responses. However, the census data will be linked to student IDs and matched with other student data.
- Individual responses will not be analyzed, and the census results will not identify individual students. The reports will only include findings where at least ten or more students have responded.
- All students are encouraged to answer all questions. However, if your child is not comfortable answering a question, they should skip the question and move to the next question.
- No program or report card marks will be withheld from students who do not complete the Student Census.
- Reports will never single out or identify a student or family and will only be reported in summary to provide an understanding of the needs of school communities.
- Click the following link to see the [Student Census questions](#). To learn more about the census, visit the [Student Census website](#).



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Parents, guardians, and caregivers will receive an email invitation from [YCDSB Census \(YCDSB@email.sogolytics.com\)](mailto:YCDSB_Census@email.sogolytics.com) to participate in the Kindergarten to Grade 5 Parent Census with their child from March 1 to March 22. Students in Grades 6 to 12 will be asked to complete the Student Census in their classrooms with their teacher from March 18 to April 5.

If you do not want your child in Grades 6 to 12 to participate in the Student Census, please complete the appropriate Student Census Opt-out Form below by **February 29, 2024**, and advise your child's school to ensure that your child does not receive an invitation to participate in the Student Census. Students who do not complete the Census during class time are provided with classroom work at the teacher's discretion.

[Grade 6-8 Student Census Opt-Out Form](#)

[Grade 9-12 Student Census Opt-Out Form](#)

A summary of the overall census results will be available on the school's and the board's website in Fall 2024.

If you have any questions about the census, please get in touch with your school principal. Should you have any questions about the data collection process, email [census@ycdsb.ca](mailto:census@ycdsb.ca) or phone 416-221-5051 ext. 13642.

Thank you for your continued support in helping all members of our school community feel safe, welcomed, respected and included in our schools.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John De Faveri in black ink.

John De Faveri  
Interim Director of Education

Handwritten signature of Alex Battick in black ink.

Alex Battick  
Human Rights & Equity Advisor

The YCDSB is required to ask students and families to complete the student census in accordance with the Anti-Racism Act, 2017, and the Data Standards, as well as through the direction and requirements of the Ministry of Education. The collection of personal information is under the authority of the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 and Bill 114, Anti-Racism Act, 2017, complies with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, and aligns with the Ontario Education Equity Action Plan. The information provided will be used for educational and research purposes only. Questions regarding this collection should be emailed to [census@ycdsb.ca](mailto:census@ycdsb.ca) or mailed to YCDSB Census, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1.