



September 2018

Dear Families

Student voice is important to us. In November 2018, the York Region District School Board will invite all students to participate in the **Every Student Counts Survey (ESCS)**. The purpose of this census survey is to better understand YRDSB's diverse student population as well as students' experiences in school and outside of school. The survey results will be used to help improve our schools and to:

- Identify and eliminate systemic barriers to student success;
- Create more equitable and inclusive school environments; and,
- Improve student achievement and well-being.

CCI Research has been contracted to work with the Board to conduct the survey and to ensure data privacy, security and adherence to all relevant legislation. To ensure that the surveys are age-appropriate, two surveys have been developed. The surveys are voluntary and confidential.

Survey for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6

Families with a child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to complete the survey online with their child at home. In November, a school letter will be sent home with a link to the online survey along with instructions. Families with more than one child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be asked to complete one survey per child. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Urdu, Vietnamese. If, for accessibility reasons, you require the survey on paper, in large print or braille please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 **no later than October 9, 2018.**

Survey for students in Grades 7-12

In November, all students in Grades 7-12 will be invited to complete the survey online during class time. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Russian, Tamil and Urdu. For accessibility purposes the survey will also be available in paper, large print and braille. Accommodations for students who need assistance completing the survey will be arranged by school staff in advance. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Students can skip questions that they do not want to answer. If you are a parent/guardian of child(ren) in Grades 7-12 and do **not** want them to participate in the survey, please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 **no later than October 9, 2018.**

As one of the main purposes of the survey is to identify and eliminate barriers to student achievement there will be a unique code on each survey for YRDSB to link the survey data with student achievement data. To ensure confidentiality, no directly identifying information (such as your child's name) will be on the survey. A summary of the results (grouped data only) will be available at schools and on the Board's website in Spring 2019.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact your school principal. Additional information about the survey (i.e., FAQs and survey questions), is available [online](http://www.yrdsb.ca/escs) at www.yrdsb.ca/escs.

This important initiative will help us work together to create equitable and inclusive school environments. Parents and guardians are our strongest partners in education and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Louise Sirisko

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

If you would like a translated copy of this letter please visit the [Board's website](http://www.yrdsb.ca/escs) at www.yrdsb.ca/escs.

Translations are available in the following languages:

- Arabic
- Simplified Chinese
- Traditional Chinese
- Chinese Farsi
- Gujarati
- Hebrew
- Korean
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Tamil
- Urdu
- Vietnamese