

FAQs



Project Purpose: To bring clarity to our diverse student population and enhance understanding of Avon Maitland students. This project will then support equity and student achievement through evidence-informed decision making.

Project Scope: Board-wide student data collection based on identity categories provided by the Ministry of Education and informed by an AMDSB selected steering committee comprised of educators and board administrators. AMDSB also consulted with several community agencies.

What data are you collecting?

Data will be collected on a voluntary basis and will include subjects like race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity (kindergarten to grade 6 students will not answer questions related to sexual orientation). The survey is multiple choice; examples of survey questions include:

- Do you consider yourself a Canadian?
- What is your religion and/or spiritual affiliation?
- What is the first language (s) you learned to speak as a child?
- Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?

This pilot project was offered by the Ministry of Education's Equity Secretariat and has been vetted by the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate.

How will the data be collected?

Data will be collected using an online survey through AMDSB E-Forms. Grades K-6 parents/guardians and grades 7-12 students will complete the survey online through a link provided on the board's website. Paper copies of the survey will be provided to K-6 parents/guardians upon request, if that is the preferred method of completion of the survey.

How will the data be used?

Data collected will bring clarity to our diverse student population. This project will then support equity and student achievement through evidence-informed decision making in three action areas:

- Better understand and respond to diverse student populations and communities
- Identify and respond to barriers to student success
- Enhance the creation and distribution of programs and services

Is completion of this survey mandatory?

Full participation would produce optimal results; however, students and families can opt out.

How will the survey be administered?

Grades 7-12: Over the period of December 3 - 7, students across the Board will complete the online survey during class time. School administrators/staff are asked to organize the survey schedule to ensure completion across grades. The survey can be found on: <http://bit.ly/iammesurvey> and will go live on December 3, 2018.

Grades K-6: Parents/guardians will be requested to complete the survey online, over the period of December 3 - 7. The survey can be found on: <http://bit.ly/iammesurvey> and will go live on December 3, 2018. Paper copies of the survey will be provided to K-6 parents/guardians upon request, if that is the preferred method of completion of the survey.

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How long will the survey take to complete?

Individuals will require approximately 30 minutes to complete the survey. Schools will be allotted the week of December 3 – 7 to ensure all grade 7-12 students have completed the survey during regularly scheduled class time.

Is the survey confidential?

The survey is confidential but not anonymous. Student login and birthdates provided on the survey will allow the data to be compared with other types of data (e.g. demographic data, school programs and achievement data) at the system level. All data will be collected and housed by the Avon Maitland District School Board and accessed only under the direction of the Director of Education. Individual student identities, as it relates to data, will not be shared in isolation.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the **Education Act, RSO 1990, c. E-2**, and in compliance with the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSO 1990, c. M-56**. The personal information collected will be used for educational, health and welfare purposes affecting students. Questions about this collection - **or use** should be directed to the Principal of your School or Superintendent of Education, Avon Maitland District School Board, 62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, NOK 1W0, telephone (519) 527-0111 or (800) 592-5437.

Who will have access to the survey results?

Collated base data and data intersections will be shared in the form of infographic posters on the AMDSB website. Results will never identify a student or family and will only be reported in a summarized way, to bring clarity to the needs of the school community. School staff will not have access to individual student results.

Can educators assist students while they complete the survey?

Students in grades 7-12 will complete the survey in class. The survey will contain explanations of terms approved by the Ministry of Education which will assist students as they complete their survey. Should questions arise regarding the understanding of specific terms, for example, as it relates to gender identification and/or sexuality, educators can read the definition to the student in order to assist. Students who require accommodation can also use Google Read and Write to complete the survey.

Is the survey available in other languages?

The survey is only available in English.

Is the parent letter/permission form available in additional languages?

To ensure informed consent, the school, on behalf of a parent/guardian, can request a copy of the parent/guardian notification/permission letter in Lao, German, Dutch, Spanish and Arabic.

What if a student in Grade 7-12 cannot complete the survey due to disability?

Some students may find it challenging to complete the survey. A parent or guardian can request that they complete the survey on their child's behalf.

Will international students participate in the survey?

International students will not participate in this survey project.

Who determined the survey questions?

The survey was created by the Ministry of Education's Equity Secretariat as part of the identity-based data project.

Where can I find additional information online?

Parent/guardian information can be found on the AMDSB website at <http://bit.ly/iammesurvey>. Information will be posted on November 1, 2018. The survey link will be live December 3, 2018.