

## FAQs - Website

### **What is the purpose of the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) *Student Census*?**

To gain a clearer understanding of who our students are to support equity, student achievement, and well-being.

The census findings will help the board and our schools to:

- better understand student populations and school communities
- further support student success, inclusion and well-being
- establish effective programs and allocate resources to where they are needed most

### **How can I find out more about the census?**

The board will be holding information sessions for parents/guardians and community sessions. These sessions will be held at local high schools and the DDSB Education Centre.

For more information visit: <https://ddsb.ca/Students/Pages/Student-Census.aspx>

### **Where are the information sessions being held?**

- |                         |                                                                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • April 3, 6 pm – 8 pm  | Ajax High School, 105 Bayly Street East, Ajax                      |
| • April 4, 6 pm – 8 pm  | Maxwell Heights Secondary School,<br>1100 Coldstream Drive, Oshawa |
| • April 8, 6 pm – 8 pm  | Port Perry High School, 160 Rosa Street, Port Perry                |
| • April 11, 6 pm – 8 pm | DDSB Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby               |

### **What can I expect from the *Student Census* Information Sessions?**

All Student Census Information Sessions will provide the same information, allowing multiple opportunities for parents and guardians to attend. The intended purpose of the Student Census will be shared, and the actual census questions will be reviewed. Time will be allotted for questions from those in attendance and feedback will be collected.

### **What if I can't access the census online?**

Paper copies will be available upon request through the Assessment and Accountability Office. Please contact Leslie Parsons at (905) 666-5290 or email

[leslie.parsons@ddsb.ca](mailto:leslie.parsons@ddsb.ca)

**What types of questions are included in the *Student Census*?**

The *Student Census* consists of approximately nine multiple choice questions about identity.

**Do I need to answer every question on the census?**

The *Student Census* is voluntary. You may choose to skip questions if you do not wish to provide answers or choose not to participate at all. However, it's important to note that the higher the completion rate, the richer and more reliable the information will be for school improvement and program planning.

**Do students in Grades 7 - 8 require parental permission to complete the census?**

No, however students can choose not to participate, if this is their choice or an agreed upon family decision.

**How will responses be kept confidential?**

A confidential database will hold the responses. All responses can only be accessed by a small team within the Research Department, strictly for analysis and research purposes. These steps comply with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

**How is the *Student Census* confidential, but not anonymous?**

The *Student Census* is not *anonymous* because students/parents do enter a unique id to log-in and begin. However, no personal identification will be shared or released. This ensures that the information provided by students and/or parents/guardians remains *confidential*.

**How will census data be used?**

Once responses are processed and analyzed, the DDSB Research Department will produce a series of 'de-identified' reports. These will help to inform and positively influence decision-making for programs and instruction, made at both the board and school levels.

**Will students lose access to any programs if they do not complete the census?**

No, no program or initiative will be withheld from any students who do not complete the census.

**What do you mean when you say ‘de-identified’ reports?**

Only a small team within the research department will have access to the raw responses. In order to meet our privacy standards, reports that will be produced for use will not have any identifiable data (Student Name, ID Number, etc).

**Will the census be available in a variety of languages?**

Both the Kindergarten – Grade 6 and Grades 7–12 survey will be available in the following languages:

- Urdu
- Arabic
- Tamil
- Dari
- Mandarin
- Persian/Farsi

**Why as a parent/guardian would I want to complete the Student Census?**

The Census is important. The *Student Census: Know Every Student, Grow Every Student* will provide us with valuable insight into who our students’ are and their lived experiences.

**This will assist us in:**

- Better understanding the needs of our students
- Planning programs to meet identified student needs
- Improving the quality of service delivery and programs
- Reducing disadvantages faced by some students
- Determining where funds are allocated
- Improving equitable programs

Your time and effort completing the survey makes a difference.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to email [census@ddsb.ca](mailto:census@ddsb.ca).