



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Youth Survey Background Information

What is the purpose of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Youth Survey?

The purpose of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Youth Survey is to collect self-reported information from youth about their well-being. It is a survey that will provide schools, school boards, and local service provider agencies with an understanding of students' health and development. Results will identify issues that could be addressed by school boards and service providers. The information can be used to inform planning decisions, including Board Improvement Plans.

What is the WDG Youth Survey?

The survey asks questions about a variety of topics including students' physical activity, eating habits, screen time, bullying, time spent with family and friends, sense of safety, and school involvement, among other topics. The grade 10 version of the survey also asks about romantic relationships.

The survey tool was developed by the Halton Our Kids Network. This survey was implemented in 2006, 2009, and 2012 in Halton and in 2011/12 and 2014/15 in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph. The process used to develop the survey employed very rigorous methods, involving key informants and School Board representatives. Pilot-testing was done to ensure the questions were interpreted properly and they were eliciting the intended information.

The survey is aligned with the Developmental Assets from the Search Institute and measures approximately 20 developmental assets (<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets>). The Developmental Assets are grounded in evidence-based literature that identifies what children need to succeed, such as a caring school climate, family communication, commitment to learning, positive identity, and safety.

The Youth Survey was altered slightly since 2011/12 to reflect emerging trends in youth health and as a response to community engagement feedback. Slightly modifications were made to questions asking about demographic information, nutrition, self-esteem, gambling and bullying. Additionally, a section focusing on relationships was added to the grade 10 version of the survey.

Is participation in the WDG Youth Survey voluntary?

Yes, participation is voluntary. Students do not have to answer every question and may choose to stop at any time.

Who will be doing the WDG Youth Survey?

Grade 7 and 10 students at schools within the Upper Grand District School Board, Wellington Catholic District School Board, and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will be asked to participate in the survey. These grades were chosen so that we have a full picture of how students are doing throughout their time in school. Because the survey is conducted every three years, we can also monitor trends over time.

How will the 2017/18 WDG Youth Survey impact classroom time at our schools?

As with previous Youth Surveys, there will be two phases of survey implementation. Phase 1: First semester Grade 10 Civics & Careers classes and all Grade 7 classes. Phase 2: Second semester Grade 10 Civics & Careers classes. Phase 1 will be implemented during November of 2017, and Phase 2 will be implemented in February of 2018.



The online survey will be completed by students in the school's computer lab, or equivalent space. It is anticipated that this will take approximately 30 minutes of class time, including instructions. Following survey completion, students will resume regular course work.

Each school is provided with a WDG Youth Survey package, which includes all of the resources required to administer the survey, including information letters for teachers, Parental Letters, and a teacher script to read on the day of the survey.

Will the identity of students, schools and boards be protected?

Yes, the survey is completely anonymous. All information collected will be strictly confidential and the students will not be identified individually. Only aggregated data for Wellington, Dufferin, and Guelph will be reported to ensure anonymity for individual students, schools, and boards.

How will the results of the WDG Youth Survey be used?

The results will be analyzed and presented in the following user-friendly reports:

- **School Profiles** (for principals and school staff): The School Profiles will summarize school-level results, which can be compared to Board and regional results. The profiles are intended to support students, staff and parents in school improvement planning. The results will provide a foundation for action throughout your school and board.
- **WDG Children and Youth Report Cards** (for the public and service providers): The purpose of the Report Cards is to raise the profile of children in our communities by providing a comprehensive review of the many factors that have an impact on our children's health and well-being. The Report Cards are intended for local service providers to support the service planning process, answer questions they may have about children and families in our community, and examine how effective their programs have been in supporting children and families in our community. You can access data from previous surveys on the Report Card website: www.wdgreportcard.com

How will the WDG Youth Survey benefit local schools?

- Schools and Boards need to report on the well-being of the children in their schools. The data collected through the survey will support the schools and Board in completing the Board and School Improvement Plans. It will be particularly helpful for addressing the Community, Culture and Caring Pillar, with data specific to the social, emotional, equity and inclusive indicators. The results may also be used to inform school-level activities necessary for the Safe Schools Act.
 - The Report Cards share the results of the WDG Youth Survey with local community agencies because child well-being is a community-wide responsibility. The Report Cards support the development of local priorities and a local plan of action to track improvement over time.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions about the WDG Youth Survey, please contact Jennifer MacLeod at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4370 or jennifer.macleod@wdgpublichealth.ca.