

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 was collected the beginning of December using an online survey through AMDSB E-Forms. Grades K-6 parents/guardians and grades 7-12 students completed the survey online through a link provided on the board's website. Paper copies of the survey were provided to K-6 parents/guardians upon request. At this time we are asking Grades K-6 parents / guardians that did not complete the survey to reconsider completing on the paper copy sent home or online at the link provided on the board website. Completed paper surveys are to be returned to the students home school in a sealed envelope provided. The home school will then send the sealed envelopes to the board office to be entered into the survey tool. We understand parents/guardians may have already made a conscious decision to not participate in this survey and the school board respects this decision.

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.

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How long will the survey take to complete?

Individuals will require approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey.

Is the survey confidential?

The survey is confidential but not anonymous. Parents / guardians completing the survey are to return the surveys in a sealed envelope to their home school to ensure confidentiality of the survey. The envelopes will be transported to the board office using an internal mail courier and opened at the school board office under the supervision of directed personnel. 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, N0K 1W0, telephone (519) 527-0111 or (800) 592-5437.

How do I am complete the Active Directory / Gmail login?

The Active Directory / Gmail login is the first four letters of a student's given name, first four letters of surname and the first three numbers of their Ontario Education Number (OEN) found at the top of a student's Report Card. The student may readily know this login as it is used frequently at school to access computers and their e-mail.

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.

Is the survey available in other languages?

The survey is only available in English.

Is the parent letter 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.

Who determined the survey questions?

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

Where can I find additional information online?

Parent/guardian information can be found on the AMDSB website at <http://bit.ly/iammesurvey>.