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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear parents, guardians and families,

This fall, Edmonton Public Schools is beginning work to better understand the diversity of the students we serve. This information will help inform our actions to make school a welcoming and safe place for all students. In the coming weeks students in Grades 4 to 12 will have the opportunity to participate in a **student demographic survey**.

Participating students will complete the survey during class time with consideration to their privacy, and school staff will be available to support students as needed. All survey questions are voluntary, which means your child will only answer the questions they feel comfortable answering.

### What is the Student Demographic Survey?

In the fall of 2021 Edmonton Public Schools released an [Anti-racism and Equity Action Plan](#) to address racism in the Division and take actions towards equity. The plan is built around three key areas. These areas were developed after hearing the lived experience of students, staff, families and the [recommendations](#) of the 2020–2021 Equity Advisory Committee. One of the three key areas identified in the plan is to learn more about students by collecting additional demographic data to inform actions that will bring about positive change.

Through the survey, students will be invited to share information about their:

- Indigenous identity
- racial identity
- ethnicity
- religion or spiritual affiliation
- gender identity
- sexual orientation (Grade 7–12 only)

### Why is the Division asking for this information?

The data from the student demographic survey will help us to better understand the diversity of students. The data will be analyzed with other data that is already available to the Division. This information will help Edmonton Public Schools better understand how different groups of students experience school and inform actions that can be taken to support student success.

An overview of initial findings and trends from the demographic survey will be shared with the community. This information will not identify individual schools or students.

### **Privacy and security of your child's information**

Student information is sensitive and confidential. As good stewards of information, Edmonton Public Schools follows the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP) and best practices to collect, store and protect student information and data.

### **Who will see student responses?**

Individual student responses will be securely stored on a central server and be accessed by only a small number of Division staff who are responsible for data management and privacy. The information students share will be confidential, which means it will not be shared with school staff, families or the public at large.

### **Parent concerns or questions**

Parents who do not want their child to participate in the survey must communicate this to their child's school. This can be done through a phone call, an in-person conversation or in writing.

### **Our hope for the future**

Edmonton Public Schools is committed to anti-racism and equity. The opportunity to learn more about student identity is one key action towards meaningful change. Our hope is that through this survey we will learn about actions that can result in a future where all students feel a sense of belonging and experience success.

Sincerely,



Darrel Robertson  
Superintendent of Schools

*Personal information is collected in accordance with Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and the Education Act to support a welcoming, caring, safe and respectful environment for students, staff and the general public. Any FOIP related questions can be directed to Brenda Hoang, Division FOIP Office, Technology and Information Management, The Centre for Education, One Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Ph: 780-429-8350.*