



EVERYONE BELONGS SURVEY



April 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

The Thames Valley District School Board is offering a voluntary survey about student identities. The Ministry of Education requires all public school boards in Ontario to provide this survey so that we can make informed decisions about our policies and practices. The survey includes questions about ethnicities, racial identities, Indigenous identities, languages, newcomers, religions, genders, sexual orientations (older students only), and abilities. The survey takes about 10 minutes and respondents can skip any question. The survey will open in mid-April.

Why are we doing this survey?

The survey information helps Thames Valley remove barriers to student achievement and well-being and create safer and more inclusive schools. The information will be used to inform school and District planning so that we can make informed decisions about our policies and practices.

What will parents and caregivers of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 be asked to do?

Parents and caregivers of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are asked to complete a survey on behalf of their child. The primary family contact for TVDSB will receive an email with a unique survey. Families with more than one child will receive an email and survey link for each child.

What will students in Grades 7-12 be asked to do?

Students in Grades 7-12 will be given time during the school day to complete the survey. Students will receive a link through their TVDSB email account that will be unique to them. If your child will need help completing the survey, please contact your child's school to arrange those supports.

Do students, parents, and caregivers have to complete the survey?

It is required that Boards offer the survey, but the survey is voluntary. The decision to complete the survey is yours and your child's. **If you do not want your child in Grade 7-12 to complete the survey, for any reason, please let your child's teacher or principal know by Tuesday, April 9th.** They will be asked to complete quiet work at their desk while others complete the survey.

What happens with the survey results?

Survey responses are securely stored and are password protected. Responses from the survey will be linked to other achievement and well-being information about students. Responses are confidential, but not anonymous. The Thames Valley research team will prepare summary reports. The reports will be shared with staff, schools, families, the Ministry of Education, and the public. Individual answers and any information that could identify a student or family will remain confidential and will not be shared.

Where can parents, caregivers, and students find more information?

More information about the survey, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions and a preview of the survey, can be found on our website: www.tvdsb.ca/everyonebelongs. If you have questions, please contact the school Principal, email everyonebelongs@tvdsb.ca, or phone **519-452-2000 extension 20496**.

Sincerely,

Mark Fisher

Director of Education