

RE: Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

Dear Families,

We want to inform you about a new survey that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is about to use to learn about the health and well-being of students.

In April and May, students in grades 4 to 8 will complete the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). Students will do this online survey during school time with school staff supervision. Your child's answers will be private, confidential and will not be identified by name.

What is the purpose of the study?

HWDSB wants to better understand aspects of child development in the middle years that affect well-being, health and school success. The survey will ask students about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school and in the community. HWDSB will use the study results to make important decisions about programs and services that make a difference for children.

The survey asks students questions about:

- 1) Social and emotional development, such as self-esteem, optimism, happiness and empathy;
- 2) Feelings of connectedness to school, family, friends, and communities;
- 3) School experiences;
- 4) Physical health and well-being; and
- 5) Time use after school hours, as well as children's wishes for after-school time.

How is my child's privacy protected?

Your child cannot be identified in this study by name. Your child's answers will not be available to you or any school or school board staff. This is to ensure that each child's answers are private and confidential. No information is added to your child's school record from the study.

If MDI information is used in research publications or in public documents, your child and your child's school will not be identified in any way. If at any time your child does not wish to participate in the survey, their teacher will provide an alternate school activity.

Personal information on the MDI is collected in compliance with Section 32 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).



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How will the school and community benefit?

The MDI study helps educators, program planners and community members learn about the lives of children through the voices of the children themselves. Your school and community can use the results to improve the lives of children. We believe the study offers many positive benefits to local children and families. HWDSB will work with partners including the City of Hamilton to ensure that we meet student needs in our community.

Where can I get more information on the study?

If you would like more information on the Middle Years Development survey, please see the attached Parent Information Sheet. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation, please contact the Research and Analytics Department at 905-527-5092.

Sincerely,

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
Research and Analytics Department