

# HWDSB

Sharon Stephanian  
Superintendent, Equity and Well-Being  
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558  
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1  
[sstephan@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sstephan@hwdsb.on.ca)  
(905) 527-5092 ext 2386

Dear Parents/Guardian/Caregiver,

The Ministry of Education has asked regional school boards to collect information about how well children are prepared for success in school. The Ministry of Education has contracted with The Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University to lead the data collection and analysis.

To achieve positive outcomes for students, it is important that education policies, programs and practices are based on evidence. As such, it is necessary for the ministry to collect, analyse and report on information from schools. If you would like to learn more about how the Ministry of Education uses data, please visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/access.html>.

## **What will take place?**

Senior kindergarten (Year 2) teachers will complete questionnaires for all children in senior kindergarten classes between February and March 29. The questionnaire, called the Early Development Instrument (EDI), measures children's developmental well-being. It was developed at McMaster University with the help of principals and kindergarten teachers.

This will NOT involve your time or your child's time, nor does it take away from classroom time. Your child's teacher is given time to complete the questionnaires.

The questionnaire is NOT a test, nor a tool for diagnosing a particular child's learning challenges. It will NOT become part of your child's school record. The results will focus on groups of children only, and not on individual children.

## **Confidentiality**

All care has been taken to protect your child's privacy. No data or records will be available or identifiable by name. The data will be stored at the Ministry of Education and treated with the high level of security that is applied to all student information in Ontario. The data will be accessible only to the project team to produce findings about groups of children that will be used by both the community and the school system to support effective programming. Any publications that may result from this collection will not identify individual children.

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## Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?

If you have questions, concerns or do not wish your child to be included in the EDI exercise, you may contact your school principal.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stephanian

Superintendent of Education

