



Glossary

Please see a list below of terms and definitions used in the HWDSB student census. If you would like a term added to the list, please email census@hwdsb.on.ca

ASEXUAL: Refers to a person that experiences no sexual attraction to others.

BIGENDER: Refers to a person who identifies as having two genders. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

BISEXUAL: Refers to a person who is physically/sexually and emotionally attracted to both males and females.

CISGENDER: Refers to a person whose gender identity aligns with what is typically associated with their sex assigned at birth. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

CITIZENSHIP: Refers to the legal citizenship status of a person. Canadian citizenship can be obtained by birth (If one was born in Canada or born outside of Canada and at least one parent was born in Canada or naturalized in Canada before one's birth) or by naturalization (The process through which immigrants acquire Canadian citizenship. Landed immigrants who have met certain criteria are eligible for Canadian citizenship by naturalization. The criteria for acquiring citizenship generally include a residency requirement, knowledge of English or French, and basic knowledge of Canada. (Source: [Obtaining Canadian citizenship \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#))

DATA: Data consists of facts, figures, and statistics objectively measured according to a standard or scale, such as frequency, volumes or occurrences, but does not include information. (Source: [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))

DE-IDENTIFY: In relation to the information of an individual, means to remove any information that identifies the individual or for which it is reasonably foreseeable in the circumstances that it could be utilized, either alone or with other information, to identify the individual. (Source: [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))

DISAGGREGATED DATA: Disaggregated data is broken down into component parts or smaller units of data for statistical analysis. In the context of race-based data, this means breaking down the composite (aggregate) "racialized" category into its component parts such as Black, South Asian, East/Southeast Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, White, etc. (Source: [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))



ETHNICITY/ETHNIC GROUPS: Refers to a person’s ethnic or cultural origins. Ethnic groups have a common identity, heritage, ancestry, or historical past, often with identifiable cultural, linguistic, and/or religious characteristics. (Source: [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#)). Other than Indigenous persons, most people in Canada can trace their origins to their ancestors who first came to Canada. Ethnic origin refers to a person’s ‘roots’ and should not be confused with citizenship, language or place of birth. For example, a person who has Canadian citizenship, speaks Punjabi and was born in the United States may report Guyanese ethnic origin.

GAY: Refers to a person who is physically/sexually and emotionally attracted to someone of the same sex. The term ‘gay’ typically refers to males, but in some contexts can be used for both males and females. [GLAAD Media Reference Guide - Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual Glossary of Terms | GLAAD](#)

GENDER FLUID: Being a person whose gender identity or expression changes or shifts along the gender spectrum. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

GENDER IDENTITY: A person’s internal sense or feeling of being a woman/a girl, a man/a boy, both, neither or anywhere on the gender spectrum, which may or may not be the same as the person’s sex assigned at birth (e.g. male, female, intersex). It is different from and does not determine a person’s sexual orientation. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

GENDER NONCONFORMING: Not being in line with the cultural associations made in a given society about a person’s sex assigned at birth. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

GENDERQUEER: Refers to a person whose gender identity does not align with the binary concept of gender such as man/boy or woman/girl. Genderqueer people may express a combination of masculinity and femininity, or neither. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

HETEROSEXUAL/ STRAIGHT: A person whose physical, romantic, and/ or emotional attraction is to people of the opposite sex. (Source: [GLAAD Media Reference Guide - Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual Glossary of Terms | GLAAD](#))

IDENTITY-BASED DATA: Refers to socio-demographic information about people such as ancestry, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion etc.



INDIGENOUS: Indigenous people identify as being descended from the Original Peoples of what is currently known as Canada. In this context, Indigenous peoples include people who may identify as First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and/or Inuit and any related identities. (Source [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))

INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY: The Ontario Human Rights Commission defines “Indigenous Spirituality” as the spiritual beliefs and practices that Indigenous peoples identify as being “traditional” or “customary” among Indigenous peoples. This may sometimes include and be practiced in combination with other faith traditions, such as Christianity.

INTERSEX: Refers to a person born with reproductive systems, chromosomes or hormones that are not easily characterized as male or female. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

LESBIAN: Refers to a female who is attracted physically/sexually and emotionally almost exclusively to other females. (Source: [GLAAD Media Reference Guide - Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual Glossary of Terms | GLAAD](#))

MENTAL HEALTH: Mental health is characterized by an individual's ability to cope with the stresses of everyday life, work productively and contribute positively to society all while recognizing their own abilities. (Source: [Mental Health \(CMHA Ontario\)](#))

MENTAL ILLNESS is a recognized, medically diagnosable illness that results in the significant impairment of an individual’s cognitive, affective or relational abilities. Mental disorders result from biological, developmental and/or psychosocial factors and can be managed using approaches comparable to those applied to physical disease (i.e., prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation). (Source: [Mental Health \(CMHA Ontario\)](#))

NON-BINARY: Refers to a person whose gender identity does not align with the binary concept of gender such as man/boy or woman/girl. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

QUEER: Refers to a person whose sexual orientation or gender identity goes against the heteronormative social model. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))

QUESTIONING: Refers to a person who is unsure about their own gender identity or sexual orientation. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))



RACE: is a term used to classify people into groups based principally on physical traits (phenotypes) such as skin colour. Racial categories are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has created (i.e. “socially constructed”), with significant consequences for people’s lives. Racial categories may vary over time and place and can overlap with ethnic, cultural or religious groupings. (Source: [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))

RELIGION: Religion is any religious denomination, group, sect, or other religiously defined community or system of belief and/or spiritual faith practices. (Source [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism \(ontario.ca\)](#))

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: The scientifically accurate term for an individual's enduring physical, romantic and/ or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual (straight) orientations. (Source: [GLAAD Media Reference Guide - Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual Glossary of Terms | GLAAD](#))

SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED: Meaning that is not inherently true, but agreed upon by society. Once society agrees to this meaning, it becomes real in its consequences for people’s lives. (Source: [Is Everyone Equal?: an introduction to key concepts in social justice education/ Ozlem Sensoy, Robin DiAngelo](#))

TRANSGENDER: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc. (source: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>)

TRIGENDER: Refers to a person whose gender identity shifts between three genders (man, woman or any non-binary identity).

TURTLE ISLAND is the name many Algonquian- and Iroquoian-speaking peoples mainly in the northeastern part of North America use to refer to the continent. In various Indigenous origin stories, the turtle is said to support the world, and is an icon of life itself. (Source: www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca.)

TWO-SPIRIT: An Indigenous person whose gender identity, spiritual identity or sexual orientation includes masculine, feminine or non-binary spirits. (Source: [OPS Bilingual Glossary on Gender Identity \(gov.on.ca\)](#))