



Research and Analytics Department

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1 research@hwdsb.on.ca

RE: The Student Voice Survey

Dear HWDSB Students,

It's Deema, Aisha, and Gloria, and we're so excited to connect with you all again to share some updates about the **Student Voice Survey**. In May of 2022, we worked alongside the Student Senate to create a survey that gave grade 7-12 students a platform to share their perspectives on three key topics: student well-being, inclusive spaces, and communication at HWDSB. The survey results would help guide the priorities and mental health strategy at HWDSB.

The survey was a HUGE success, receiving 4,490 responses, with participation from all 13 secondary schools and 57 elementary schools. **We can't thank every single one of you enough for sharing your experiences, insight, ideas, perspectives and stories.** It truly means the world.

Through the survey data, we were able to identify several key themes: students are mostly unfamiliar with the mental health resources available to them, discussions around mental well-being needed to become more common, and there is still a stigma around accessing mental health support. These responses have sent us a clear message: we need to take action to ensure every HWDSB student is aware of the mental health resources available to them and work to remove barriers and gaps that exist.

So, what have we been up to since then? Over the past few months, we have been working with HWDSB's mental health team, system social workers, the research and analytics department, and the communications department to understand the data and determine our next steps.

Our short-term goals include sharing this data back with you, the students. You'll be able to find a breakdown of the survey results on the HWDSB website. We'll continue to promote mental health resources and supports at a school and board level.

After that, we'll be connecting with different student groups (Student Senate, Student Voice Advisory Committees, CC:ROSE, etc.) to continue identifying the gaps that exist and build a long-term plan that is informed by your experiences and suggestions. In the long-term, the survey results and discussions will inform HWDSB's three-year mental health strategy, the priorities of the Student Senate, and serve as a guideline for future student surveys and consultations.



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If you have any questions regarding the Student Voice Survey and what this means for the future of HWDSB students, please feel free to reach out to us at:

StudentTrustees@hwdsb.on.ca

Thank you all again so much, you have and continue to play such an important role in the future of HWDSB and our school communities.

Sincerely,

Deema Abdel Hafeez,
2021-22 HWDSB Student Trustee, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Aisha Mahmoud
2021-23 HWDSB Student Trustee, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Gloria Li
2022-23 HWDSB Student Trustee, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board