

Consultation: bullying in Ontario schools

Share your feedback about bullying in Ontario schools so that we can help make schools safer and more inclusive.

Closing date: March 31, 2020

Overview

Bullying is a serious issue that can affect students' learning, sense of safety and overall well-being. Bullying is never okay.

Bullying can be:

- **physical**
- **verbal**
- **social**
- **written**
- **online** or cyberbullying

Bullying is meant to cause harm, fear or distress, or create a negative environment for another person. Bullying occurs when there is a real or perceived power imbalance. It can happen anywhere — in your neighborhood, at school and online using email, text messages or social media.

Ontario has strong laws and policies to prevent bullying and support students who experience bullying, but it still happens every day. [Research from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health \(CAMH\)](#) shows that 21% of students reported being bullied at school.

About the consultation

We want your feedback to learn about:

- students' experience with bullying in Ontario schools
- your experience with reporting and responding to bullying at schools
- ways to make it easier to report bullying at schools
- bullying prevention activities at schools
- how to help support bullying prevention outside school

This survey is focused on students. However, we know that parents, guardians and educators might also have feedback.

We encourage parents and guardians to get involved and support their children to complete the survey. This is an opportunity to use the survey to discuss bullying.

If you are uncomfortable with some of the questions or have concerns about staying anonymous, you can choose "I don't want to say" to skip questions.

How to participate

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. It's open to students, parents and guardians and educators.

Students under 16 years old will need consent from a parent or guardian to complete the survey. Parents/guardians are required to provide their consent for students to participate in the student survey.

Take the online survey

Provide your input by completing our online survey based on your experience as a:

[Student](#)

[Parent or guardian](#)

[Educator](#)

Your privacy matters

The Ministry of Education is committed to protecting your privacy in relation to your personal information. Your responses will be reviewed by the Ministry of Education to help the ministry better understand bullying in Ontario's publicly funded schools and how to foster safe and inclusive schools across the province.

When you take the survey below you will find details about what information we are collecting, why we are collecting it and how we are protecting your privacy. For questions on how personal information collected on this page will be used, please see our [Privacy Statement](#) or contact:

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Survey for students: bullying in Ontario schools

Share your feedback about bullying in Ontario schools so that we can help to make schools safer and more inclusive.

Closing date: March 31, 2020

Are you 16 years of age or older?

- Yes
- No

Have you been bullied at school in the last year? You should include cyberbullying. Pick one answer.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

Do you know how to report bullying at school? Pick one answer.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

How did you learn about how to report bullying? Pick as many as you want. *

- We talk about it in class
- At an assembly
- During a bullying prevention activity or workshop
- Posters in the school
- Social media (for example, Instagram)
- Parents
- Another adult
- Friends
- I have not learned about reporting bullying
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

Do you feel like you could talk to an adult at school if you were being bullied? Pick one answer.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

If you saw someone being bullied, what would you do? Pick as many as you want. *

- I don't want to say
- I would ignore it
- I would tell my parent(s) or guardian(s)
- I would tell my teacher
- I would tell my principal or vice-principal
- I would tell another school-based staff (for example, safety monitor, lunchroom staff)
- I would tell another adult at school
- I would tell an adult outside of school
- I would call the Police or another authority
- I would tell another student
- I would tell the person being bullied to call Kids Help Phone
- After the incident, I would help the person who was being bullied
- I would report it using my school board's bullying reporting tool
- I would get an adult to help stop it
- I would make a joke of it
- I would stand by and watch
- I would join in the bullying
- I would stand up to the person who was doing it
- I would get back at the person who was doing it

If you were being bullied, what would you do? Pick as many as you want. *

- I don't want to say
- I would ignore it
- I would tell my parent(s) or guardian(s)
- I would tell my teacher
- I would tell my principal or vice-principal

- I would tell another school-based staff (for example, safety monitor, lunchroom staff)
- I would tell another adult at school
- I would tell an adult outside of school
- I would call the Police or another authority
- I would tell another student
- I would call Kids Help Phone
- I would report it using my school board's bullying reporting tool
- I would get an adult to help stop it
- I would make a joke of it
- I would stand up to the person who was doing it
- I would get back at the person who was doing it

Have you reported bullying to an adult at school in the last two years?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I don't want to say

What would make it easier for you to report bullying to an adult at school? Pick as many as you want.

- Having someone I trust to talk to
- Having a place where I can go in to report it privately
- Having a way to report it privately online
- Having someone else report it on my behalf
- Knowing that someone will listen to me and act on my report
- I would not report a concern
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

Do you think adults at your school do the following? Adults at your school can include teachers, principals, vice-principals, support staff. Pick as many as you want.

- Try to recognize and prevent bullying when they see it
- Try to stop bullying when they see it
- Ignore bullying when they see it
- Talk openly about bullying
- Make excuses for bullies
- Support or defend those who are bullied
- Discipline bullies
- Discipline those who are bullied
- Listen to both sides of the story and address bullying
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

Have you participated in any bullying prevention programs or activities at your school this year? Pick one answer.

- Yes
- No

- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

Do the students in your school plan or lead any bullying prevention programs or activities? Pick one answer.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

What could be done outside of school to help support bullying prevention? Pick as many as you want.

- Tell an adult or friend who would stop bullying incidents
- Programs run by community groups (for example, Big brothers / Big sisters)
- Rules on social media to help address bullying
- Access to supports like Kids Help Phone
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I don't want to say

What school board is your school associated with?

- What grade are you in? *
- Kindergarten-Grade 3
- Grade 4-6
- Grade 7-8
- Grade 9-12
- I don't want to say

How do you describe yourself?

- Male
- Female
- Gender identity not listed above
- I don't want to say

What is your first language (the language you learn to speak at home)? Pick one.

- English
- French
- Other
- I don't want to say

Do you self-identify as Indigenous? Pick one.

- Yes
- No
- I don't want to say

Which racial group(s) best describes you?

- Black (for example, African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)
- East Asian (for example, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent)
- Latino/Latina/LatinX (for example, Latin American, Hispanic descent)

- South Asian (for example, South Asian descent, East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)
- Southeast Asian (for example, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent)
- White (for example, European descent)
- A racial group(s) not listed
- I don't want to say

How long have you lived in Canada? Pick one.

- I have always lived in Canada
- Less than one year
- One to five years
- Five years or more
- I don't want to say

What region do you live in? Pick one.

- Eastern Ontario (postal code starts with K)
- Central Ontario (postal code starts with L)
- City of Toronto (postal code starts with M)
- Southwestern Ontario (postal code starts with N)
- Northern Ontario (postal code starts with P)
- I don't want to say

Survey for parents and guardians: bullying in Ontario schools

Share your feedback about bullying in Ontario schools so that we can help to make schools safer and more inclusive.

Closing date: March 31, 2020

Are you 16 years of age or older?

- Yes
- No

Do you think adults at your child's school (for example, teachers, principals, vice-principals, support staff) do the following? Select all that apply.

- Try to stop bullying when they see it
- Ignore bullying when they see it
- Talk openly about bullying
- Make excuses for those who bully
- Support or defend those who are bullied
- Discipline those who bully
- Discipline those who are bullied
- Listen to both sides of the story and address bullying
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

Do you know the process for reporting bullying to your child's school? Select one.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

If you were to report a bullying concern to your child's school, are you confident that the school would take action? Select one.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

During this school year, how often does your child's school communicate information about its bullying prevention programs, activities or policies? Select one.

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Never
- I'm not sure
- Prefer not to say

How satisfied are you with the steps your child's school has taken to prevent bullying? Select one.

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied
- I'm not sure
- Prefer not to say

What do you think your child's school could do to help prevent bullying? Select all that apply. *

- Provide students with information about bullying, including how to prevent and deal with bullying
- Provide students with information about how to report bullying
- Hold parent and guardian information meetings
- Provide training to teachers and school staff on how to prevent and address bullying
- Have group or class discussions
- Invite a guest speaker
- Show films on the topic
- Have students or teachers read books on the topic
- Run bullying prevention programs or activities
- Do a school or class project on bullying prevention
- Hold an assembly
- Involve students in bullying prevention
- Develop skits on bullying topics
- What could be done outside of school to help prevent bullying? Select all that apply. *
- Requirements for social media companies to address bullying

- More partnership between outside organizations to address bullying
- More community-based programs for children and parents
- Police outreach programs
- Other
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

What school board is your school associated with?

What is your first language (the language you speak at home)? Select one.

- English
- French
- Other
- I prefer not to say

Do you identify as Indigenous? Select one.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Which racial group(s) best describes you? Please select all that apply.

- Black (for example, African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)
- East Asian (for example, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent)
- Latino/Latina/LatinX (for example, Latin American, Hispanic descent)
- South Asian (for example, South Asian descent, East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)
- Southeast Asian (for example, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent)
- White (for example, European descent)
- A racial group(s) not listed
- I prefer not to say

How long have you lived in Canada? Select one.

- I have always lived in Canada
- Less than one year
- One to five years
- Five years or more
- I prefer not to say

What region do you live in? Select one.

- Eastern Ontario (postal code starts with K)
- Central Ontario (postal code starts with L)
- City of Toronto (postal code starts with M)
- Southwestern Ontario (postal code starts with N)
- Northern Ontario (postal code starts with P)
- I prefer not to say

Survey for school staff: bullying in Ontario schools

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Closing date: March 31, 2020

I have read and understood the notice of collection of personal information:

- Yes
- No

Are you aware of a process for parents to report bullying of students at your school? Select one.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

Are you aware of a process for students to report bullying at your school? Select one. *

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- I prefer not to say

Do you feel prepared to respond to bullying incidents at your school? Select one. *

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

What school board is your school associated with?

What is your first language? Select one.

- English
- French
- Other
- I prefer not to say

Do you identify as Indigenous? Select one.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Which racial group(s) best describes you? Select all that apply. *

- Black (for example, African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)
- East Asian (for example, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent)
- Latino/Latina/LatinX (for example, Latin American, Hispanic descent)
- South Asian (for example, South Asian descent, East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean)

- Southeast Asian (for example, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent)
- White (for example, European descent)
- A racial group(s) not listed
- I prefer not to say

How long have you lived in Canada? Select one.

- I have always lived in Canada
- Less than one year
- One to five years
- Five years or more
- I prefer not to say

Which region do you live in? Select one.

- Eastern Ontario (postal code starts with K)
- Central Ontario (postal code starts with L)
- City of Toronto (postal code starts with M)
- Southwestern Ontario (postal code starts with N)
- Northern Ontario (postal code starts with P)
- I prefer not to say