



My Niagara Catholic Kindergarten to Grade 8 Student Census 2023

You're invited to participate in the student census on behalf of your Kindergarten to Grade 8 child at home.

The administration of a voluntary student census is a requirement by the Ministry of Education for all school boards, in compliance with the Ontario Anti-Racism Act. The census is an opportunity to learn more about our students and to identify diversity through the range of human qualities and attributes that make up our student community, including but not limited to, ability, ethnicity, gender, language, race, and religion.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is dedicated to serving students and their families in its diverse school communities with the belief that all persons are created equal in the image of God, each with unique characteristics deserving of dignity. Embracing diversity in Niagara Catholic schools supports all students to learn and grow free from discrimination and barriers. The staff of Niagara Catholic are committed to ensuring that everyone feels included, has a strong sense of belonging, and is welcome in our schools.

The *My Niagara Catholic* Student Census will provide a greater understanding of who our students are so that we can more precisely identify and address systemic barriers and disparities to support improved student achievement and well-being for all students. This information is important to staff, students, and families, so that schools can create communities that are inviting, welcoming, and meaningful to all students.

How do you participate in the student census?

Parents/guardians of elementary students are invited to participate on behalf of (or with) their child(ren) at home. A parent/guardian has received this unique link to the census for each of their children through an email address on file with the school. Parents/guardians who wish to participate will use this link to access and complete the census by May 1.

Secondary students will be invited to participate at school. Grades 9 to 12 students will receive a unique link through their Niagara Catholic Gmail accounts and will be provided class time between late May and early June to complete the census. Parents/guardians who do not want their Grades 9 to 12 students to participate can opt-out (further information is below).

How long will it take to complete?

The census will take about 15 minutes to complete. You have the choice to complete some of, all, or none of the questions. There will be no follow-up or additional requests regardless of your choice with respect to completion of the census.

What about confidentiality, privacy and security?

We respect the privacy of our students and families and adhere to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). MFIPPA is the provincial legislation that establishes responsibilities of school boards to protect personal information that is collected, used, retained, disclosed, and disposed of. The information collected from the census will be kept in confidence in secure data files that are password-protected and encrypted. While the census is not anonymous, only individuals with authorization will have access to the individual data.

How will results be used?

The Ministry of Education has directed school boards to cross reference the census information with other student information already collected by school boards, such as EQAO results and report cards, to gain a better understanding of the experiences of students. Reports will contain results from groups of students in a summary format. All reports will be prepared in such a way that individuals cannot be identified.

What if I have questions about the census?

If you have general questions about this initiative, please contact the Equity and Inclusive Education Department of the Niagara Catholic District School Board at studentcensus@ncdsb.com.

What if I do not want my child(ren) to participate?

Your participation, or the participation of your child(ren) in the census is completely voluntary.

If you do not want your child(ren) in high school to complete the census that will be administered during class time at school, there will be an opt out link in the email that parents/guardians of Grades 9 to 12 students can expect to receive in early May.

The *My Niagara Catholic* Student Census is available for online completion. If you wish to begin the online version of the census for your Kindergarten to Grade 8 child, please click Yes below.

Thank you in advance for your interest and responses.

Do you want to participate in the census?

Yes

No

You clicked "No". To exit the survey, click "Exit the survey" below.

Exit the survey

Return to the survey

Language(s) First Spoken

What is the first language(s) your child learned to speak? Select all that apply.

- American Sign Language
- Albanian
- Arabic
- Armenian
- Bengali
- Chinese
- Croatian
- Dari
- Dutch
- English
- Farsi
- Filipino (Pilipino)
- French
- German
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Hebrew
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indigenous to Turtle Island language(s) and/or dialect(s) - please specify (optional): _____
- Italian
- Korean
- Malayalam
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Serbian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tagalog

- Tamil
 - Tygrinya
 - Ukrainian
 - Urdu
 - Vietnamese
 - A language(s) not listed (please specify): _____
 - Not sure
-

Indigenous Identity

Does your child identify as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit?

No

Yes

If yes, select all that apply.

Yes, First Nations

Yes, Métis

Yes, Inuit

OPTIONAL: Please list your child's specific First Nations, Métis and Inuit nation, clan and/or community.

Ethnic Origin

Does your child consider themselves a Canadian or Indigenous to Turtle Island?

Yes

No

Not sure

Ethnic groups have a common identity, heritage, ancestry, or historical past, often with identifiable cultural, linguistic, and/or religious characteristics.

What is your child's ethnic or cultural origin(s)? Select as many ethnic or cultural origins as apply.

- Afghan
- Albanian
- American
- Anishnaabe
- Arab
- Armenian
- Australian
- Bahamian
- Barbadian
- Belgian
- Bosnian
- Brazilian
- British Isles origins
- Cameroonian
- Canadian
- Chilean
- Chinese
- Colombian
- Croatian
- Cree
- Cuban
- Czech
- Dutch
- East Indian
- Egyptian
- English
- Eritrean
- Filipino
- First Nations
- French

- German
- Ghanaian
- Greek
- Guyanese
- Haudenosaunee
- Hungarian
- Inuit
- Iranian
- Iraqi
- Irish
- Italian
- Jamaican
- Japanese
- Jewish
- Kenyan
- Korean
- Kurd
- Lebanese
- Métis
- Mexican
- Mi'kmaq
- Nigerian
- Ojibwé
- Pakistani
- Peruvian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Salvadorean
- Scottish
- Serbian
- Slovak

- Slovenian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Sri Lankan
- Sudanese
- Syrian
- Taiwanese
- Ukrainian
- Vietnamese
- Yugoslavian
- Another ethnic or cultural origin not listed (please specify):

Not sure

Race

In our society, people are often described by their race or racial background. These ideas about who belongs to what race are usually based on physical features such as skin colour. Ideas about race are often imposed on people by others in ways which can affect their life experiences and how they are treated. Race is often confused with ethnicity, but there can often be several ethnicities within a racialized group.

Which racial group(s) best describes your child? Select all that apply.

- Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)
- East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent)
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit descent)
- Latino/Latina/Latinx (Latin American, Hispanic descent)
- Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g., Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)
- South Asian (South Asian descent, e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean, etc.)
- Southeast Asian (Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent)
- White (European descent)
- A racial group(s) not listed above (please specify): _____

Religion or Spiritual Affiliation

People can be treated differently based on their religion, or perceived religion, which can lead to negative impacts and unequal outcomes. Islamophobia and antisemitism are examples of the way religion can be racialized. People can experience racism not only based on their skin colour but also other perceived characteristics that are associated with religion.

What is your child's religion and/or spiritual affiliation? Select all that apply.

- Agnostic
 - Atheist
 - Buddhist
 - Christian - Catholic
 - Christian - Non-Catholic
 - Hindu
 - Indigenous Spirituality
 - Jewish
 - Muslim
 - Sikh
 - Spiritual, but not religious
 - No religious or spiritual affiliation
 - Religion(s) or spiritual affiliation(s) not listed (please specify): _____
 - Not sure
 - I do not understand this question
 - I prefer not to answer
-

Gender Identity

According to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, gender identity refers to a person's internal sense or feeling of being a woman, a man, 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). Gender identity is different from and does not determine a person's sexual orientation.

What is your child's gender identity?

Disability

Some people identify as having a disability because of a permanent or long-term health condition that makes it difficult for them to function in an environment that is not fully inclusive and accessible. A disability may be physical, mental, behavioural, developmental, sensory, communicational, or a combination of any of these.

Barriers such as settings that are hard to access, like schools, shops or public places, negative attitudes and barriers to information contribute to a person's experience of having a disability. A person's disability may be diagnosed or not diagnosed. It may be hidden or visible. Some students who have disabilities may have a special plan at school to help them, like an Individual Education Plan or IEP, but some do not.

Do you consider your child to be a person with a disability(ies)? Select one answer only.

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
 - I do not understand this question
 - I prefer not to answer
-

If yes, select all that apply.

- Addiction(s)
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Blind or low vision
 - Deaf or hard of hearing
 - Developmental disability(ies)
 - Learning disability(ies)
 - Mental health disability(ies)
 - Mobility
 - Pain
 - Physical disability(ies)
 - Speech impairment
 - A disability(ies) not listed (please specify): _____
 - I prefer not to answer
-

Status in Canada

Was your child born in Canada?

Yes

No

If no, what is your child's current status in Canada?

a Canadian citizen

a landed immigrant/permanent resident

an international student (enrolled through a study permit)

a refugee claimant

Not sure

I do not understand this question

I prefer to specify: _____

I prefer not to answer