



Family Guide – Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3

This document is intended to help families answer questions about the student census. A separate technical guide is provided to help open and log into the census online.

This resource guide will address the most common questions or concerns. Consult the Census FAQ on the LDSB census website <https://www.limestone.on.ca/board/studentcensus> for more detailed answers.

The most likely questions and concerns that arise will be related to confidentiality and privacy. The FAQ presents more detailed answers, which can be summed up as follows:

- The census is confidential, but not anonymous. This means census data can be tied to student records. This is done to allow for the identification and tracking of achievement and opportunity gaps.
- Census data will be linked to student records using a secure access code, which is a random number with no meaning outside of a secure database held internally on LDSB servers.
- LDSB and the research team have a legal and ethical duty to protect the confidentiality and privacy of participants.
- Individual data will never be released, all released data will be de-identified. All reporting on data must use group data and be done in ways that protect the identities of individuals.

For families: You will be answering the question on behalf of each primary student in your household. Please consult with your student(s) to include their thoughts.

In this section of the guide, we have provided a set of specific guidelines to help you understand specific questions on the census.

What are the Census questions asking?

First Language

- You may find this first question overwhelming since there are over 83 scroll down options. Please think about what you are looking for and then use the fact that it is in alphabetical order to find the right fit. Please **be reassured** that this is not how the whole survey will be. There will only be one other question such as this (ethnic background).
- The languages listed are the most common languages spoken at home in Limestone District School Board based on the 2016 Canada Census Profile of the regions served by the school board.
- “Indigenous languages” refer to languages spoken among First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.



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First Nations, Métis & Inuit Self-identification

- The Anti-Racism Act requires that: “public service organizations must collect personal information about Indigenous identity (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) to assist in the identification and monitoring of Indigenous people’s unique experiences of systemic racism and marginalization.”
- This questions specifically refers to Indigenous peoples within Canada.

Ethnic background

- You may find this first question overwhelming since there are over 280 options. Please think about what you are looking for and then use the fact that it is in alphabetical order to find the right fit. This is the last question that is this long.
- Question rationale is taken from the Anti-Racism Act Data Standards: “Ethnic origin 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.”
- You may also use the open box provided to provide any additional ethnic or cultural origins as they feel applies to themselves.

Racial background

- Question rationale is taken from the Anti-Racism Act Data Standards: “Systemic racism is shaped by how society categorizes individuals into racial groups. Race is a social construct, **not** a reflection of personal identity (as distinct from individual, ethnic or cultural identity).”
- If you identify as mixed or have multiple backgrounds you may:
 - Select multiple responses.
- If you feel that none of the categories presented represent their racial background, you may use the specified open-ended box to write in the response.
- Racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are not the same thing as citizenship or nationality, i.e., ‘Canadian’ or ‘British’ are not racial identities.

Religious affiliation

- You can indicate the religion/faith/creed that they personally and/or your family identifies with.
- “Indigenous Spirituality” refers to the spiritual beliefs and practices that Indigenous peoples identify as being “traditional” or “customary” among Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- ‘Catholic’ is a distinct answer from the broader category of ‘Christian’ to represent the presence of a Catholic public school system in Ontario.



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Gender identity

- We are asking about gender identity as a three-part question. The approach to asking about gender was designed with experts in the field and approved by the Ministry of Education to help with collecting better data. “Transgender” will be an option in the second part. It is fine to review all 3 parts of this series and use the back arrow to revise or begin answering the questions.
- From Ontario Human Rights Code: “Gender identity is each person’s internal and individual experience of gender. It is their sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, nor anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person’s gender identity may be the same as or different from their birth assigned sex. Gender identity is fundamentally different from a person’s sexual orientation.”
- You may select all gender identities that you feel apply to them; you can also write in their own answer in the specified open-ended box.

Born in Canada/Status/Newcomer

- You may not understand some of the terms. In this case, simply indicate: “I do not understand this question.”
- A landed immigrant/permanent resident is someone who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities and is the first step to being qualified to apply for Canadian citizenship.

Well-being

- You may select as many options that you feel apply to them
- You may also select: “None of the above”

Canadian Armed Forces / Military

- This question only applies to your immediate household / home.

Sense of Belonging

- This is a series of six questions. Questions 1,2,5, and 6 in this series are a simple three-point scale with several examples built into the choices
- Question 3 in this series to do with extra-curricular school activities is for a **typical** (i.e. without COVID-19)
- You may also select: ‘None of the above’



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Caring Adult at School

- This is a perceptual question on a simple three-point scale.

Home Life

- You may skip any of these questions **if** none of the options apply

For additional information, not answered in this Guide, please consult the Census FAQ on the LDSB census website <https://www.limestone.on.ca/board/studentcensus> for more detailed answers.

If you have feedback about the Census questions, you can direct them to the LDSB Census Team at studentcensus@limestone.on.ca.