

# Everyone counts. CENSUS 2022



## Census Week:

# October 3 to 7, 2022

The Ministry of Education has mandated school boards in Ontario to collect and analyze voluntary demographic and perceptual data about students.

## Your voice matters.

As a result, Rainbow District School Board is inviting parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 and students in Grades 9 to 12 to complete an Identity-Based Census during the week of October 3 to 7, 2022.

- ◆ The Census consists of 10 questions. It will take about three minutes to complete.
- ◆ The aim of this data collection is to enable school and system leaders to address barriers to student success in keeping with Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan (2017).
- ◆ The Census, which is aligned with Ontario's Anti-Racism Data Standards, was the subject of extensive consultations during the 2021-2022 school year.
- ◆ The questions reflect the input from many people over many months.
- ◆ The Board of Trustees has also been consulted throughout the process.
- ◆ Care was taken to ensure there would be more than 10 responses to answers to protect privacy.
- ◆ As you read each question, you will be able to scroll over words you may not understand to access a definition.
- ◆ If needed, there is a translation tool available within the Census.
- ◆ If you require text to speech or other accommodations, please email [census@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:census@rainbowschools.ca) or talk to your school Principal.
- ◆ A completion bar at the bottom of the screen will track your progress.

**The Census is brief and it's easy to complete.  
Mark your calendar for Census Week.**



[Click to view video.](#)

Visit [rainbowschools.ca](https://rainbowschools.ca) to learn more about the Census, including the questionnaire in various languages, a glossary of terms, frequently asked questions and a video featuring student voice.

# CENSUS 2022 Facts

As mandated by the Ministry of Education, all school boards in Ontario are required to administer a Census. Rainbow District School Board's Census will take place at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.



## **While the Census is confidential, it is not anonymous.**

The demographic data that is collected will be merged with student achievement data to determine challenges and opportunities for groups of students, not individual students. Workforce data will be overlaid on top of student data.

**Data will be presented in aggregate form only.** Individual responses, as well as personal student and family information, will remain strictly confidential.

Rainbow District School Board is governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and must comply with all applicable legislation.

## **WHO?**

All students in Rainbow Schools will be invited to participate in the Census. Participation is voluntary.

## **WHAT?**

Identity-based data will be collected through a brief online questionnaire. Paper copies, accessible formats and translated versions will be available, on request.

Identity-based data includes race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability and socio-economic status. Participants will be able to skip any question they prefer not to answer.

Questions regarding gender identity and sexual orientation are grade-level appropriate, consistent with The Ontario Curriculum, Health and Physical Education (2019). Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will not be asked about sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **WHEN?**

The Census will be administered by e-mail from October 3 to 7, 2022.

## **WHERE?**

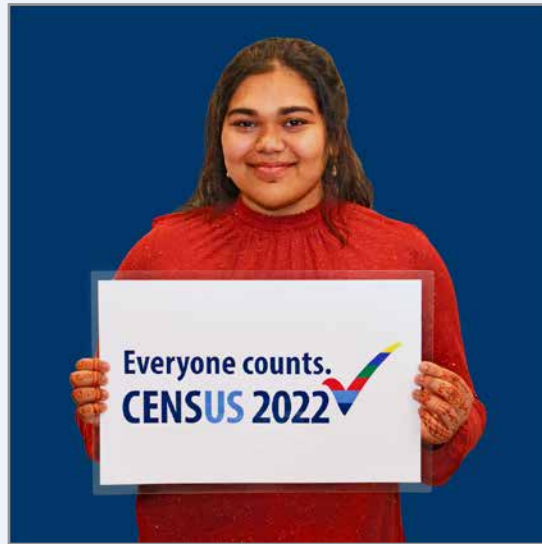
Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will complete the Census online with their parents/guardians at home. Grade 9 to 12 students will fill out the Census online in class.

## **WHY?**

The purpose of the Census is to foster student success and well-being, make data-informed decisions on programs and services, and support all students to reach their full potential.

**To learn more or to request an accessible format, visit [rainbowschools.ca](https://rainbowschools.ca), email [census@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:census@rainbowschools.ca) or call 705.674.3171, ext. 7217.**

# CENSUS 2022 FAQs



*"The Census gives a sense of who students are, where we come from, and allows staff to determine how to help us effectively."*

Everyone counts.  
**CENSUS 2022**

Rainbow Schools  
Creating a better future for every student.

Ontario

## What is being asked in the Census?

The Census collects identity and demographic data.

The questions focus on languages, Indigenous identity, ethnicity, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, (dis)abilities and socio-economic status.

## Why does the Board need to know more about me?

Having a picture of the overall student population in Rainbow Schools will enable the Board to make data-informed decisions.

The Census results, coupled with other data sets like credit accumulation and graduation rates, will be used to identify inequities in student opportunities and achievement outcomes.

The goal is to better understand the needs of students and better target supports to address the needs of students to ensure the well-being and success of all learners.

## How many questions are in the Census?

There are 10 questions.

## Where do the questions come from?

The Ministry of Education provided school boards with sample questions consistent with the Anti-Racism Data Standards established through the Anti-Racism Act.

The sample questions were presented to a variety of Rainbow District School Board stakeholders for conversations and consultations.

The questions were reviewed by many people and reflect the input of many voices, including students, staff, elected officials, First Nations communities, parents/guardians and partners.

The questions were finalized by a Census Steering Committee who also provided input.

The Steering Committee includes representatives of the Board's federations and unions.

## How long will it take to answer the questions?

On average, it will take two to three minutes.

## Can I see the questions in advance?

You can access the Census questionnaire online at [rainbowschools.ca/parents/census2022](https://rainbowschools.ca/parents/census2022).

## Will the Census be available in accessible formats?

Accessible formats will be available, on request. Assistive technology will be provided so every student can participate. Support staff will be invited to assist students, as required. The online questionnaire is compatible with Google Read&Write Extension for text to speech. If a secondary student has regular and recurring classroom support to complete schoolwork and assessments, these supports will be available to assist the student to log on to their device, open the Census web link and/or orient themselves with the available accommodations (font size, Google Read&Write, translation). These staff members will ensure your child's privacy is maintained. Please talk to your school Principal or email [census@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:census@rainbowschools.ca).

## How will the Census be administered?

The Census will be administered by email. Parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be invited to complete the Census together at home. Students in Grades 9 to 12 will be invited to complete the Census at school.

## Will the Census be available in multiple languages?

A translation feature within the survey tool offers multiple languages. If you require the Census questions in another language, please contact the school.

## Will I be able to complete the Census in paper form?

Yes. Printed copies of the Census questionnaire will be available on request. The questionnaire will be in an unsealed envelope.

To maintain privacy, please place the completed questionnaire in the envelope, seal the envelope, and return the envelope to the school. Please talk to your school Principal or email [census@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:census@rainbowschools.ca).

## Will I be able to get help in completing the Census?

Yes. The Board will host Census Cafés based on interest. Computers will be available to complete the Census with the assistance of staff. For example, newcomers will be invited to a Census Café where staff will be available to provide support with translation.



*"The Census will help staff get to know their students and understand challenges they may be facing at home and in school."*

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*"By completing the Census, you are helping to make a change."*

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*"Every student needs to be given every opportunity to be all they can be."*

Everyone counts.  
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