

Some background information on MDI (Middle Development Instrument):

Purpose of the project

The purpose of our study is to understand how children during the middle childhood years think and feel about their lives both inside and outside of school by having children complete the Middle Years Development Instrument survey (MDI). This study is one of the first of its kind taking place in Canada. The information collected from this study will help inform educational and community efforts to improve the lives of children.

What data are collected?

The MDI asks questions about five areas of children's development and well-being: 1) social and emotional development; 2) feelings of connectedness to school, family, friends, and communities; 3) school experiences, 4) physical health and well-being; and 5) time use during the after school hours.

What are the benefits of the MDI?

The MDI enables children to report on their own experiences. The information gathered allows researchers, educators, parents, and policy makers to make decisions based on data rather than speculation. Combined with other data sources, this information helps researchers learn more about the factors that impact children's well-being and sense of competence.

Will my school, class or children be "ranked" in any way?

None of this information will be used to rank children or classes in any way. Findings will be publically presented at the neighbourhood level, and no school or child will be identified. Schools will obtain confidential reports regarding their own school findings and these will be contrasted to the overall School District findings. Any information that would identify teachers and/or students will be removed from any reports.