

Youth Development Instrument (YDI): Predicting Successful Trajectories from Childhood to Young Adulthood

Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter

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Local School Board Contact (listed below)

AT A GLANCE

- A survey will take place in your school and students will be asked questions pertaining to their social and emotional development, health, and well-being.
- Your child will be invited to complete the survey unless you explicitly request to withdraw your child.
- Your child will be told that they can choose to complete the survey, and can skip questions and stop at any time.

Your school and researchers at Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) invite your child to take part in completing the Youth Development Instrument (YDI) – a survey designed to learn about the social and emotional development; health, and well-being of young people 16 to 17 years of age. Students in Grade 11 take approximately 45-90 minutes of class time to complete the YDI online supervised by school staff. The YDI project is sponsored by your school and school board with funding from SFU.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to better understand aspects of children's social and emotional development, health, and well-being that contribute to their overall success in school and in life. The YDI gives young people a voice in reporting their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school, at home, and in the community. Your school board is participating in the YDI because they want to know more about the health and well-being of their students and identify the ways in which young people's success and well-being can be promoted in schools and communities. They can use the information to improve education, support, and services for all students. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting young people's personal and social competencies.

The YDI has been developed in collaboration with educators, students, and other stakeholders working to improve youth well-being. The YDI builds on the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) to check in on student development, health, and well-being during adolescence, an important time as youth prepare to move into adulthood. If you have any questions about the YDI project or the type of questions on the survey, please contact ydi@sfu.ca.

Participation is voluntary and consent is passive

The YDI is completely voluntary. There are no physical risks to completing the survey, and your child can choose whether or not to complete the survey. Your child may skip questions or stop answering the survey at any time. Your child will be able to withdraw from the study by selecting that they do not agree to participate at the start of the survey or by notifying the survey administrator after beginning the survey.

Participating or not participating in the survey will not affect your child's grades. It will not affect any services that your family receives from the school or school board.

If you do not want your child to complete the YDI, please return the attached form to your child's teacher or principal within 4 weeks upon receiving this letter. You can also email the YDI project team at ydi@sfu.ca to withdraw your child. Children who do not participate will work on an activity that is related to their regular school work.

We use a passive consent process whereby parents or guardians can opt out their child from participation because the YDI is low risk and provides valuable data to help schools and communities improve adolescent wellbeing. Because the YDI is delivered to a very large population of students, collecting active consent by having all parents and guardians sign and return permission forms would not be feasible.

What will happen?

Prior to starting the survey, your child's teacher or school staff will explain to the students that they will be asked questions about their lives inside and outside of school, that the YDI is not a test—there are no right or wrong answers—, and that they can stop at any time. Because several of the questions ask about children's feelings and relationships, the survey has a place where your child can ask for help with any problems they are having. Your child will also be asked how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their feelings and daily activities to help assess the pandemic's impact on young people's development and well-being. Your child may skip these and any other question(s) on the YDI if they wish. If your child asks for help, researchers will notify the teacher and principal who will follow school procedures for making sure your child gets help. Your child may also be invited to participate in a follow-up focus group with 3-5 fellow students to discuss their experience taking the YDI and their thoughts on whether the survey is understandable and relatable to young people their age. Notes and recordings of your child's contributions to focus group discussions may be made.

How is my child's privacy protected?

Your child's responses to the survey questions and comments during focus group discussions are **private and confidential**. Neither you nor any school or school board staff member will know what your child's answers are. Only researchers and other focus group participants will be aware of your child's remarks during focus groups. All focus group participants are instructed not to share what is said during discussions with others. No information is added to your child's school record from the project. If YDI information is used in research publications or in public documents, your child and your child's school will not be identified.

In order to participate in the YDI, your school board provides information to the YDI research team about your child, including their name, Personal Education Number (PEN), date of birth, gender, and postal code. Your

child's name is only used so that your child can log into the survey. Information identifying your child is stored separately from survey responses once the survey is complete.

How will YDI data be used and stored?

The YDI Principal Investigator is responsible for keeping all YDI project data safe. Personal information such as your child's date of birth, Personal Education Number (PEN), and postal code is stored separately from your child's answers to the survey. This is to protect your child's privacy. Your child's personal information is kept in a secure research environment at UBC, to be used only for approved linkage and research projects **under Federal, Provincial/Territorial privacy laws**. Researchers who receive permission to use the YDI data for research or statistical purposes will be provided data that cannot be connected to any individual student.

The data from the study may be linked at the individual level with other data to learn about the factors that influence children's well-being, health, and school success. Other data may include education and health information. Once linked, data are "de-identified"; that is, identifying information like names are removed. The data that are linked **can only be used for research or statistical purposes by researchers approved by the YDI principal investigator**. For concerns related to the privacy of your child's survey data, please contact the YDI project at ydi@sfu.ca.

Project results

Your child's response to the YDI survey will be combined with those from other students in your child's school and community. Project results are reported at the level of school or school board, neighbourhood, and province. School reports are shared with boards and schools, and are not shared publicly. YDI results will not be used to rank schools, students, or classes in any way.

The YDI project will follow a protocol established by HELP's [Aboriginal Steering Committee](#) regarding the reporting of data for Indigenous children. This protocol ensures the data are used to support Indigenous self-determination toward improving developmental outcomes for Indigenous children. The YDI project will never publicly report YDI data for Indigenous children, nor use it for comparison.

How will your school and community benefit?

Recent research indicates that children's well-being influences school and life success and future well-being. By completing the survey, students will have a chance to share their experiences and feelings contributing to their sense of well-being. YDI reports will give educators, program planners, and community members, information about the lives of children by capturing children's voices directly through the YDI. Your school and community can use the results to support students and improve their well-being.

Where can I get more information on the project?

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dr. Hasina Samji, the Principal Investigator, or Gaelen Snell, the research project coordinator, at ydi@sfu.ca. **If you do not want your child to complete the survey, please sign the attached withdrawal form and return it to your child's teacher or principal, or email us at ydi@sfu.ca to withdraw your child. If you'd like your child to participate, you don't have to sign and return.**

Research participants complaints or concerns

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Yours sincerely,



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If you want to withdraw your child, please, sign and return this section to your child's teacher.

Please return this form to the classroom teacher by [February 29th] if you do **NOT** want your child to participate.

I do **not** consent for my child [NAME] _____ to participate in the Youth Development Instrument (YDI) survey taking place from March 29th to April 9th.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____