



Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK) 2027

Additional information



Conduct of the survey

Starting in January 2027, the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) will send a letter to school principals explaining the survey objectives and timeline and will call them to obtain the information required for data collection (teacher contact information, assigned groups, etc.).

Schools will then receive documents by mail for the teachers and parents of children in 5-year-old kindergarten. These documents will include a refusal form allowing parents to withdraw their child from the survey. The refusal forms signed by parents must be collected by the teachers and returned to the ISQ. Teachers will also receive additional information by email.

Starting in February 2027, kindergarten teachers will have to complete a 15-minute online questionnaire for each child in 5-year-old kindergarten in their class via the ISQ's secure site. The questionnaire¹ aims to collect information on simple, observable behaviours related to five domains of child development:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge

It is important to note that this questionnaire does not provide an individual measure of development, cannot be used to establish a diagnosis, and is not intended to assess the performance of the teaching staff or the school.

Compensation for teacher participation

The ISQ will compensate you for the participation of teachers as described in the enclosed *Information Note*.

Dissemination of results

The ISQ will publish its report on the QSCDK in the fall of 2028. This report will provide a picture of the situation in Québec at the provincial and regional level. Statistical tables at the provincial, regional and other geographic levels (e.g., school service centres or school boards, RCMs, CLSCs) will also be made available on the ISQ's website.

You will also receive a summary of aggregated results on the development of the 5-year-old kindergarten students in your school service centre or school board and in your schools, if the

¹ The tool used to measure children's development in the QSCDK is the Early Development Instrument. It was developed by researchers at the Offord Centre for Child Studies (© McMaster University, Ontario).

number of children permits. Furthermore, barring exceptions, each school will receive the aggregated results for their students. Results for schools will not be otherwise released.

No published results will be explicitly linked to any school. However, there is a slight risk that certain results could be linked, by inference, to a school when there are few schools in a given area or if results for different geographies are combined. Despite this slight risk, the ISQ wishes to provide as much information as possible for various geographies in order to meet the objectives of the survey. If this is a problem for you, please contact the ISQ for more information.

Confidentiality and privacy

The information will be treated as confidential in accordance with the *Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec* (CQLR, chapter I-13.011) and the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information* (CQLR, chapter A-2.1).

With your consent, the de-identified data files will be transmitted to the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Ministère de la Famille, the Ministère de l'Éducation, the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation, and McMaster University. These organizations can only use these files for statistical purposes.

They have committed in an agreement to respecting the ISQ's confidentiality and dissemination rules.

Ethics

The ethics committee appointed by the ISQ reviewed the survey to ensure it is conducted in a way that respects participants and protects their dignity.

Related survey on early childhood experiences

From March 2027 to the end of summer 2027, the *Québec Survey on the Preschool Path of Kindergarten Students* (QSPPKS) will be conducted among a sample of parents of children covered by the QSCDK. The survey questionnaire will include questions on childcare attendance and family characteristics. With your consent, the data collected from parents will be combined with those collected in the QSCDK at the provincial level. This will help us better understand the links between preschool experiences and the development of children in 5-year-old kindergarten.

Integration of QSCDK data into the *Growing Up in Québec* study

The *Growing Up in Québec* study follows more than 4,000 children born in Québec in 2020-2021 until they reach adulthood in order to better understand the factors that affect their development, health, and well-being. In the 2026-2027 school year, most of these children are in 5-year-old kindergarten. With your consent, the data collected in the QSCDK will be combined with those collected in *Growing Up in Québec*, which will allow us to study the links between experiences in early childhood, development in 5-year-old kindergarten, and future academic success.