

Study on Child Development in a Pandemic Context – Teacher Component

February 2022

Private schools
To the attention of the Director General
Address
City (Québec) Postal code
NOQ

Greetings,

The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge for the education sector. Some of the challenges faced by schools include the suspension of educational and instructional services, full or partial school closures due to COVID-19 cases, health guidelines to be followed, and the move to online education.

In order to understand the impacts of the health crisis on children, the Observatory for Children's Education and Health,¹ in collaboration with the Ministère de l'Éducation, wants to measure the current developmental status of children and compare it to what was observed before the pandemic. This information will help guide decision-makers regarding services to be put in place to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the future of young Quebecers.

The Institut de la statistique du Québec (Statistique Québec) has therefore been mandated to collect information on approximately 10,000 children who are currently in Grade 5. These children were selected at random among those for whom a questionnaire was completed as part of the 2017 *Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten* (QSCDK). Grade 5 teachers will be asked to complete an online questionnaire about each child in their class who is included in the study. In your school, X students are concerned. Since the children are selected at random, some teachers in your school may not have to complete any questionnaires.

To ensure that the objectives of the study are met, Statistique Québec has made participation **mandatory** in accordance with the *Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec* (CQLR, chapter I-13.011).² In order for Statistique Québec to produce reliable, high-quality data and make comparisons with the data from QSCDK 2017, the participation of all schools and teachers included in the study is essential.

¹ The Observatory for Children's Education and Health is a research program that brings together researchers from several Québec universities. It was created and funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec.

² Under this Act, any person receiving a request for information to which a reply is mandatory must provide the information requested by the prescribed deadline and in the prescribed format.

In this context, your role is to:

- complete and return the consent form for data matching and transmission enclosed with this letter **by February 28, 2022**;
- provide the information required for the data collection when Statistique Québec calls you (starting in March 2022); and
- put in place conditions that ensure the participation of the Grade 5 teachers included in the study.

For more information about the study, please read the enclosed documents or get in touch with Statistique Québec using the contact information found in this letter.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. By participating in this study, you are contributing to the production of quality statistics that Québec needs to promote children's well-being and development.

Daniel Florea
Chief Statistician