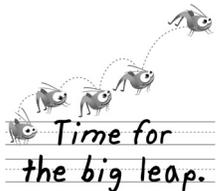


School services centre / School boards
To the attention of the Director General
Adresse
Ville (Québec) Code postal
NOQ

Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK) 2022

October 2021

Greetings,



The Institut de la statistique du Québec (Statistique Québec) is conducting the third edition of the *Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK)*. The results of this survey will be used to guide and adapt services for young children in order to better prepare them for school and thus promote their academic success.

This survey is the result of a partnership between the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, the Ministère de l'Éducation, the Ministère de la Famille, the Lucie and André Chagnon Foundation and Statistique Québec. It is one of the components of the Initiative concertée d'intervention pour le développement des jeunes enfants (Joint Intervention Initiative for Early Childhood Development) implemented in 2011.

All children in 5-year-old kindergarten in the private and public sector (in French- and English-language schools) are included in this survey. Teachers will be asked to complete a questionnaire for each child in their class, and some teachers will be selected at random to complete an additional questionnaire on contextual elements related to the development of the children in their class.

To ensure that the objectives of the survey are met, Statistique Québec has made the QSCDK **mandatory** in accordance with the *Act respecting the Institut de la statistique du Québec* (CQLR, chapter I-13.011).^{*} In order for Statistique Québec to produce quality data that is reliable and comparable with the data from the 2012 and 2017 editions of the survey, the participation of all schools and teachers is essential.

In this context, the role of school service centres and school boards is to:

- put in place conditions that promote the participation of schools and teachers in the QSCDK; and
- complete and return the consent form (for data matching and transmission) enclosed with this letter by **November 16, 2021**.

^{*} 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.

For more information about the QCSDK, please see the enclosed documents, visit the survey website (statistique.quebec.ca/qscdk), or contact us by phone (1-800-561-0213) or by e-mail (eqdem@stat.gouv.qc.ca).

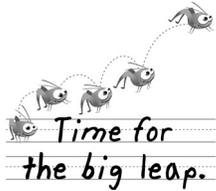
Thank you in advance for your cooperation. By participating in this survey, you are contributing to the production of quality statistics that Québec needs to promote children's well-being and development.

Daniel Florea
Chief Statistician

Québec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK) 2022

Additional information

October 2021



How the survey will unfold

Over the coming weeks, Statistique Québec will send a letter to school principals explaining the objectives of the survey and how it will unfold. In January 2022, Statistique Québec will begin calling school principals to obtain the information required for the data collection (teachers' contact information, assignation of groups, etc.).

Schools will then receive documents in the mail for the teachers and parents of children in 5-year-old kindergarten. These documents will include a refusal form that parents can fill out if they wish to withdraw their child from the survey. The refusal forms signed by the parents will have to be gathered by the teachers and returned to Statistique Québec.

Starting in February 2022, kindergarten teachers will have to complete a 15-minute online questionnaire for each child in their class via Statistique Québec's secure website. The questionnaire¹ aims to collect information on simple and observable behaviours in relation to five domains of child development in kindergarten:

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

It is important to point out 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.

Certain teachers will also be selected at random to provide additional information in order to enhance the analyses (e.g., characteristics of the teacher, class or school).

Compensation for teacher participation

Statistique Québec will compensate you for the participation of teachers as described in the enclosed note.

Dissemination of results

Statistique Québec will publish its report on the QSCDK in the fall of 2023. This report will provide a picture of the situation in Québec at the provincial and regional level. Statistique Québec's

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

website will also feature statistical tables at the level of the province, regions, and other geographies (e.g., school service centres or school boards, RCMs, CLSCs).

At the same time, you will receive a summary of the aggregated results on the development of the 5-year-old kindergarten students in your school service centre or school board and your schools, if the number of children permits. With a few exceptions, each school will also receive aggregated results for its students. Results for schools will not be released otherwise.

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

Confidentiality and privacy

The information provided 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).

The anonymized 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. They will only be used by these organizations for statistical purposes.

These organizations have committed, through an agreement, to respecting Statistique Québec's confidentiality and dissemination rules.

Ethics

The survey was reviewed by the ethics committee appointed by Statistique Québec. The ethics committee is responsible for safeguarding the respect, dignity and integrity of those participating or included in the survey.

Survey associated with the QSCDK

From March to June 2022, 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, family characteristics, and the 4-year-old kindergarten program. The information collected from parents will be combined with that collected in the QSCDK to better understand the links between preschool paths and the development of children in 5-year-old kindergarten.