



## CDSBEO School Climate Surveys 2021-2022

This year, the CDSBEO worked in collaboration with The Learning Bar, to develop a school survey to collect data used to inform school policy and instructional decisions, with a goal of increasing student engagement and improving student experiences. The data also helped to identify relevant issues, provide a framework for intervention, recognize students requiring extra support, involve parents in meaningful ways, and increase student and teacher engagement.

As legislated, all publicly funded school boards in Ontario are required by the Ministry of Education to conduct anonymous school climate surveys of students, staff, and parents at least once every two years. School teams worked collaboratively with the OurSchool Survey team and The Learning Bar platform to share the voluntary surveys.

Caroline LaBelle, Principal at Holy Name of Mary Catholic School, facilitated the data collection process which began in October. Surveys were shared with elementary students in grades 4 to 8, secondary students, parents, and staff, and all groups were very well represented.

"The data collection is a critical step to gaining a clear understanding of who our students are and of their school experiences. The purpose of this data collection and performance measurement is to improve the achievement and well-being of all students and more precisely, identify and address system barriers and disparities. Overall, we were very pleased with the representation and validity of the responses," noted Principal LaBelle.

"Data will also be used to create and inform the Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) and School Improvement and Equity Plan (SIEP), a demographic, data-driven tool designed to capture the experiences and outcomes of various groups of students. The BIEP and SIEP increase accountability and standardize commitments for advancing human rights and equity across the education system. By collecting specific data, it assists schools and boards in identifying where gaps in achievement between groups of students exist and where changes can be made to support all students in our schools."

"When I think of our Board, and how we strive for inclusivity and bringing our spiritual theme of *I Belong Here* to life, it is great to see that these surveys have garnered such positive responses," concluded Chair Lalonde.

## Diplôme d'étude en langue française (DELF) Exam

The Diplôme d'études de langue française (DELF) is an internationally recognized test of French proficiency which is based on the CEFR. The testing defines language proficiency by measuring listening, speaking, reading and writing, and candidates can attain a diploma from the French Ministry of National Education through one of the 175 international exam centres.



Schools in Ontario partner with the French Embassy in Ottawa and we work closely with the province's DELF Management Centre to ensure the integrity of the certification in our own board.

Principal of Curriculum Tracy O'Brien, along with FSL Consultants Sharon O'Brien and Lyne Gratton, presented information to the Board of Trustees on the successes of the DELF assessment in the CDSBEO.

In the CDSBEO, all grade 12 students registered in French Immersion, Extended French, or Core French can write the DELF exam to receive their certification. Since 2013, the number of CDSBEO students that have written the DELF has risen from 15 to 156 in 2022. Many CDSBEO educators have also participated in the DELF Examiner-Scorer accreditation, and currently the board has 38 teachers trained as DELF Correcteurs.

"While the DELF exam is administered in grade 12, our students' proficiency in the French language begins much earlier. Thanks to the dedicated FSL teachers in our board, our students are reading, writing, speaking, and listening in the French language as early as Kindergarten. All FSL teachers work together to prepare our students for the DELF exam by teaching the necessary skills to achieve success," explained Sharon O'Brien.

Challenging the DELF is an extra certification that students embark on independently and is not part of the curriculum. Writing the DELF is voluntary, and students must prepare for the assessment. If successful, the certification is an important achievement which provides additional options for future post-secondary and careers pathways.

"The DELF exam is a culmination of many years of learning and since the CDSBEO began administering the exam, we have boasted a 100 per cent pass rate,"

Since 2013 our Grade 12 CDSBEO students have had the opportunity to challenge the DELF, a prestigious international diploma that certifies the French language competency of candidates for whom French is not their first language. The DELF exam is an assessment of proficiency that is awarded by France Education International.

Principal O'Brien congratulated Lyne Gratton and Sharon O'Brien for their outstanding work to enrich learning in CDSBEO FSL programs.

"They support our outstanding FSL teachers daily, and their collective passion is why our schools are continuing to do so well in the DELF each year. Without the efforts of Lyne and Sharon and all FSL teachers in our board, we would not see the outstanding results, nor would we see the number of students continuing in our French programs in high school."

"This is an outstanding program and opportunity for our students. I am so happy to see that students from all CDSBEO secondary schools are participating in the DELF exam," concluded Trustee Laton. "It is certainly a testament to all of the hard work of our staff to see an abundance of success for these students."