

Future Grade 9 Survey

Why is the WRDSB interested in Grade 8 students' transition to high school?

The transition from elementary school to high school is an important change in students' lives. This change presents students with opportunities to grow and can also be a time of uncertainty or vulnerability for some students. Because this represents such an important time for students, the WRDSB wants to make sure that students have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to successfully transition to this next step in their learning.

What are students being asked to do?

You are invited to complete an online survey during class time that will take 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

What kinds of questions are on the survey?

On this survey we are asking you to tell us about the different things you've experienced in Grade 8 to get ready to go to high school in the fall. Some examples include questions about: attending Grade 8 information nights, learning about the requirements to earn a high school diploma, opportunities to explore different areas of study, occupations, and careers, how prepared you feel for high school, and the things you are looking forward to or are concerned about.

What else do students need to know about this survey?

The survey is voluntary. This means that you do not have to participate if you do not want to and it will not affect your relationship with your teachers, your school or the school board. This also means that you don't have to answer any question you do not want to answer. You can skip any question on the survey by leaving it blank.

The survey is anonymous. This means that no one will know which answers are yours except you. You will not be asked to provide your name or other personal information that could identify you such as your email address or student ID.

If you change your mind about taking part in the survey after you've started, you can stop participating by closing the survey and not submitting your answers.

How will the information that students provide be protected?

Once you submit your survey, your responses will be combined with the responses of all the other Grade 8 students who take part in the survey. The results of the survey will be reported for the group of Grade 8 students who take part. Both of these things will help protect individual student responses from being identified.

Only a small number of WRDSB staff members will have access to students' survey responses. These staff members are responsible for analyzing the survey results and they will keep the survey responses in password-protected files on a secure department computer for 7 years.

How will the information that students provide be used?

The WRDSB will use the results of this survey to help improve the ways we support Grade 8 students as they transition to Grade 9. We will share summaries of the results with participating schools, board staff, trustees, and the Ministry of Education.

Who can students contact if they have questions about this survey?

If you have questions about this survey, please ask your teacher, school principal or contact research@wrdsb.ca

Do you agree to participate in the *Future Grade 9 Survey*? By agreeing to participate in this survey it means you understand the information shared above and have decided to answer the survey questions. *Note: This is the only item you are required to answer to take part in this survey. You can skip any other item on this survey by leaving it blank.*

- ☐ Yes (choosing this option will take you to the first survey question)
 - ☐ No (choosing this option will close the survey)
-

School Information

What is the name of your school?

▼ Avenue Road Public School ... Woodland Park Public School

Are you going to a WRDSB high school next year?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ I'm not sure
-

What WRDSB high school are you going to next year?

▼ Bluevale Collegiate Institute ... Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School

Note: This question is displayed to students who answer, "Yes" to the question, "Are you going to a WRDSB high school next year?"

Why are you not going to a WRDSB high school next year? *(Choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Location of the school or distance to travel to school
- ☐ Size of the school
- ☐ Reputation or impression of the school
- ☐ Safety concerns about the school
- ☐ School building or facilities
- ☐ My parents/guardians decided the school I will go to
- ☐ My friends do not go to the school
- ☐ A program I want is not offered at the school (e.g., athletic program, academic program, etc.)
- ☐ An extracurricular club or sport I want is not offered at the school
- ☐ I'm moving away from Waterloo Region
- ☐ I'm going to a high school at a different school board
- ☐ Another reason that is not listed above _____

Note: This question is displayed to students who answer, "No" to the question, "Are you going to a WRDSB high school next year?"

Why are you not sure about going to a WRDSB high school next year? *(Choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Location of the school or distance to travel to school
- ☐ Size of the school
- ☐ Reputation or impression of the school
- ☐ Safety concerns about the school
- ☐ School building and/or facilities
- ☐ My parents/guardians decided the school I will go to
- ☐ My friends do not go to the school
- ☐ A program I want is not offered at the school (e.g., athletic, academic, etc.)
- ☐ An extracurricular club or sport I want is not offered at the school
- ☐ I'm moving away from Waterloo Region
- ☐ I'm going to a high school at a different school board
- ☐ Another reason that is not listed above _____

Note: This question is displayed to students who answer, "I'm not sure" to the question, "Are you going to a WRDSB high school next year?"

Did you participate in any of the following programs in elementary school? *(Choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Alternative Program (e.g. Elev8)
- ☐ Education & Community Partnership Program (e.g., Starling/Lutherwood, Camino, Lang's, etc.)
- ☐ Summer School (for students in Grades 6-8)
- ☐ Summer Learning (for students in SK-Grade 5)
- ☐ No, I have not participated in any of these programs

WRDSB Information and Resources About High School

Did you go to the [Grade 8 information night](#) at a WRDSB high school this year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

Do you plan to go to the [Grade 8 visit day](#) at a WRDSB high school this year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

Did you use the [WRDSB Transition to Secondary School Guide](#) to help you prepare for high school next year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

Support for Exploring Pathways and Making High School Course Choices

During elementary school I have had opportunities to:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
understand who I am by identifying my interests, skills, or personal strengths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
explore different areas of study, occupations, or careers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
identify my personal, academic, or life goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
create a plan to achieve my goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have an online Individual Pathways Plan (IPP)?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ I'm not sure
-

This year I learned about the:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
requirements needed to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
types of courses that are offered in Grade 9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
specialized programs available in high school (e.g., Integrated Arts Program, IB)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
pathway opportunities in high school (e.g., Co-op, SHSM, OYAP, Dual Credit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
supports available in high school (e.g., Student Success, Resource, CYW)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
pathways that are available after finishing high school (i.e., apprenticeship training, college, community living, university, and the workplace)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Preparing for Next School Year

How much do you agree with the following statement?

Thinking about my learning at school, I feel prepared for learning in the next school year.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What things have helped you to feel prepared for learning in the next school year? *(Choose all that apply)*

- Alternative Program (e.g., Elev8)
- Classes or what I learned in my classes
- Creating a plan to achieve my goals in high school
- Family members
- Field trips or visits to my high school
- Friends or peers
- Good grades, achievements or doing well in my classes
- Guest speakers or presentations from high school staff/students
- Having a different teacher for each subject
- Homework
- Information from online resources such as myBlueprint
- Learning about different high school pathways
- Learning about the classes I need to take to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)
- Literacy/Numeracy Summer School Program (for students in Grades 6-8)
- Personal qualities I have such as: confidence, maturity, or advocating for myself
- Planning or time management skills I learned
- Study skills or work habits I learned
- Summer Learning Program (for students in SK-Grade 5)
- Tests
- Teachers, guidance counsellors or other school staff
- Another reason that is not listed above _____

Note: This question is displayed to students who answer, "Strongly agree", "Somewhat agree", "Neither agree nor disagree", or "Somewhat disagree" to the item, "Thinking about my learning at school, I feel prepared for learning in the next school year."

What things have prevented you from feeling prepared for learning in the next school year? *(Choose all that apply)*

- Getting poor grades in my classes
- Not having enough chances to create a plan to achieve my goals in high school
- Not having enough chances for hands-on learning
- Not having enough chances to learn about different high school pathways
- Not having enough chances to learn about the classes I need to take to earn a high school diploma (i.e., OSSD)
- Not having enough chances to learn what high school will be like (e.g., guest speakers, presentations or high school field trips/visits)
- Not having enough homework
- Not having enough support from friends or peers
- Not having enough support from my family
- Not having enough support from teachers, guidance counsellors or school staff
- Not having enough tests or exams
- Not having study skills or work habits
- Not knowing how to plan or manage my time
- Another reason that is not listed above _____

Note: This question is displayed to students who answer, "Somewhat agree", "Neither agree nor disagree", "Somewhat disagree", or "Strongly disagree" to the item, "Thinking about my learning at school, I feel prepared for learning in the next school year."

When you think about going to high school next year, what are you looking forward to? *(Choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Experiencing greater academic challenges
 - ☐ Exploring new interests
 - ☐ Getting involved in extracurricular activities or clubs
 - ☐ Having a new or fresh start
 - ☐ Having more choice about what I learn or how I learn
 - ☐ Having different teachers for each subject
 - ☐ Having more freedom
 - ☐ Making friends
 - ☐ Meeting new people
 - ☐ Participating in extracurricular sports
 - ☐ Taking new subjects
 - ☐ Nothing
 - ☐ Another reason that is not listed above _____
-

When you think about going to high school next year, what do you have concerns about? *(Choose all that apply)*

- ☐ Being at a different school or in different classes than my friends
 - ☐ Being at the same school with older students
 - ☐ Being bullied
 - ☐ Differences in the ways classes are taught
 - ☐ Finding my classes or getting lost
 - ☐ Having different teachers for each subject
 - ☐ Having exams and tests
 - ☐ Increased amount of homework
 - ☐ Losing social status (e.g., going from oldest students at school to the youngest students at school)
 - ☐ Making friends
 - ☐ Pressure to get good grades or do well
 - ☐ Receiving less support or help from teachers
 - ☐ Reputation or impression of school
 - ☐ School work will be more difficult
 - ☐ Size of the school
 - ☐ Where to go or what to do for lunch
 - ☐ Nothing
 - ☐ Another reason not listed above _____
-

You have now completed all the questions on the **WRDSB Future Grade 9 Survey**, and you are about to submit your responses.

Once you click the "submit" button below, you will not be able to change your responses. If you need to make changes to your responses, please make them now by using the back button to go back.

Please click the "submit" button below to submit your responses.