



Middle Years Development Instrument





Our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the xwmə0kwəýəm (Musqueam) people



MDI Outline

- MDI Overview
- Strategies for launching the MDI
- Timeline and Tasks for District MDI Administration
- Steps to MDI Administration in Schools
- MDI Resources & Dashboard

Child Development Monitoring System



TDi

Toddler
Development
Instrument

12 - 24 months

Parent & caregiver questionnaire

EARLY
EXPERIENCES &
CONTEXTS



CHEQ

Childhood Experiences Questionnaire

Start of Kindergarten

Parent & caregiver questionnaire

EARLY EXPERIENCES & CONTEXTS



EDi

Early
Development
Instrument

Mid-Kindergarten

Teacher questionnaire

SKILLS & COMPETENCES



MDi

Middle Years
Development
Instrument

Grades 4 - 8

Student questionnaire

WELL-BEING & ASSETS



YDi

Youth
Development
Instrument

Grade 11

Student questionnaire

WELL-BEING & ASSETS





MDi

Dimensions of the MDI

Helps us gain a deeper understanding of children's social and emotional health, well-being and assets during middle childhood - from their own perspective.









USE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME



SCHOOL EXPERIENCES



The Well-Being Index

Optimism
Self-Esteem
Happiness
Absence of Sadness
General Health

Low Well-Being

Children who are reporting negative responses on at least 1 measure of well-being.

Medium Well-Being

Children who are reporting no negative responses and fewer than 4 positive responses.



Children who are reporting positive responses on at least 4 of the 5 measures of well-being and have no low-range responses.



The Assets Index



ADULT RELATIONSHIPS

Adults at School
Adults in the Neighbourhood
Adults at Home



OUT-OF-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES*

Organized Activities



PEER RELATIONSHIPS

Peer Belonging Friendship Intimacy

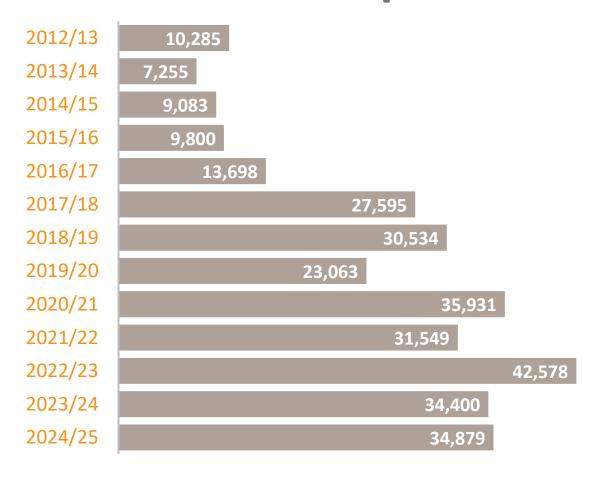


NUTRITION AND SLEEP

Eating Breakfast
Meals at Home With Your Family
Frequency of Good Sleep

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES Not Reported Publicly

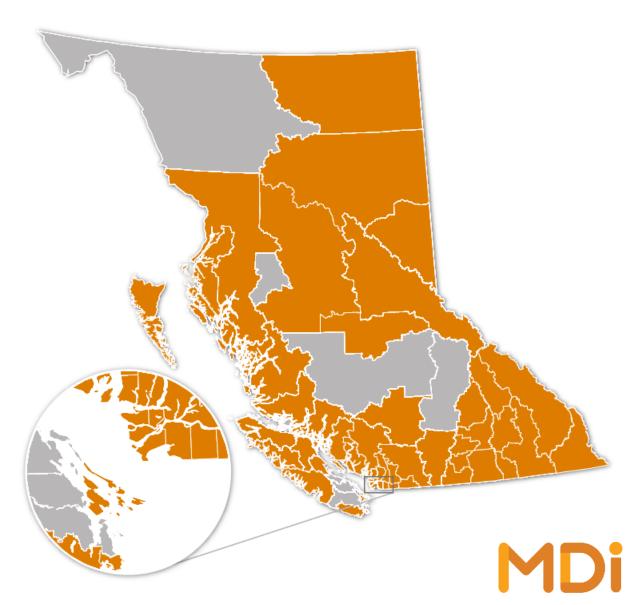
MDI Participation 2009/2010 – 2024/2025



2024/25 Grade 4: 2,836 Grade 5: 13,197 Grade 6: 6,190

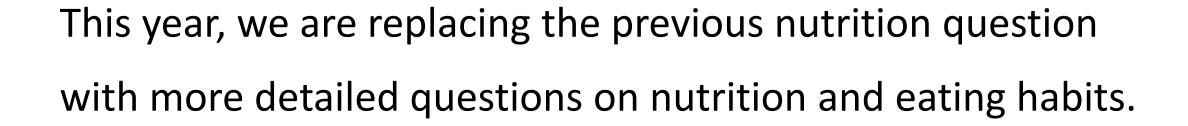
Grade 7: 760 Grade 8: 11,896

Total overall (all years & grades): 310,650



New in MDI Questionnaire

New questions:





Strategies for launching the MDI



Preparing for successful launch of the MDI in your school board

- ✓ Encourage senior leadership to communicate their support
- ✓ Highlight the MDI at administrators' meetings
- ✓ Show the connections between the MDI and the school district or school goals or priority areas
- ✓ Explain how the MDI aligns with Personal and Social Competencies in the curriculum
- ✓ Share examples of ways schools and teachers have communicated MDI results and used them to make change
- ✓ Ensure parents/guardians receive the informed passive consent letter and include MDI announcements in school newsletters, websites and social media

Principal Package

We have compiled a "Principal Package" that you can use in your communication with your school principals.

Introductory Letter

Use this email template to help introduce the MDI to your principals.

Survey Administrator Checklist (English)

Survey Administrator Checklist (French)

Provide this step-by-step checklist to your school principals to help guide them through the MDI administration process.

Parent Infosheet (English)

Parent Infosheet (French)

Provide this to schools to distribute to parents for an overview of the MDI.

Core Competencies Infosheet

Provide this to schools to show how the MDI asks children questions related to the BC Ministry of Education's Personal and Social Competencies and how MDI data can provide a unique approach to understanding children's social and emotional development and well-being in relation to these competencies.

Teacher Infosheet

Provide this to teachers for an overview of the MDI.

https://www.discovermdi.ca/mdi-administration/resources/#principal-package





Connectedness to Peers and Self-Regulation.





*** Please include an announcement about the MDI in your school newsletter or on your school website using this template. ***

THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL IN JANUARY/MID-MARCH!

[Your district] has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies.

Grade [4, 5, 6, 7 or 8] students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between: January 13th and March 13th, 2026.

For more information and to view the questionnaires: https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/

Parent FAQs:

https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/

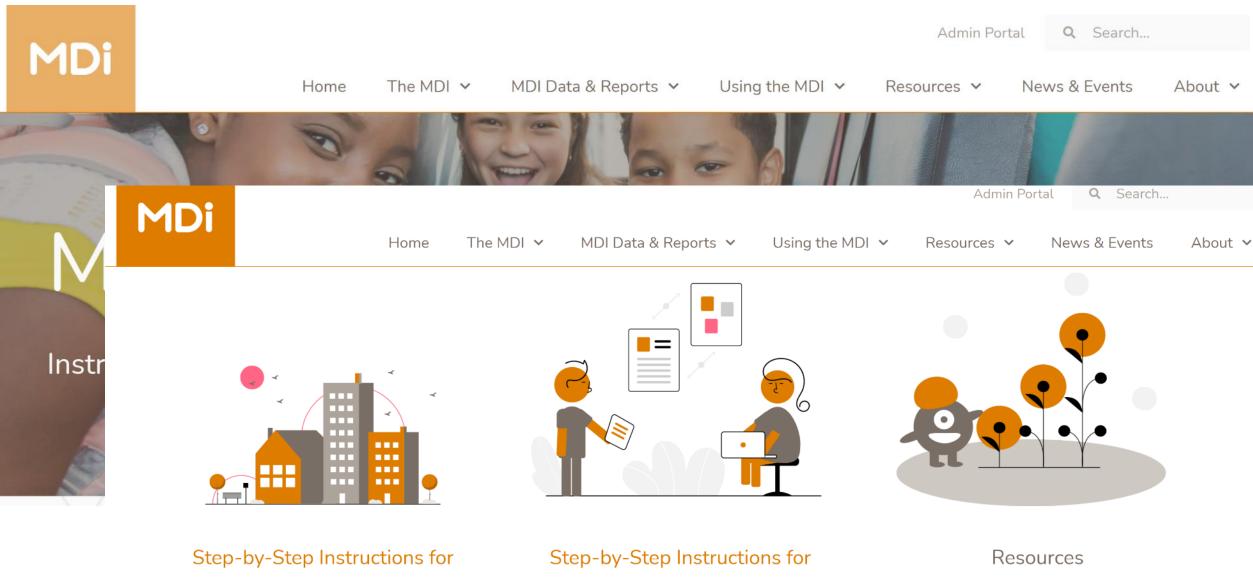
If you don't want your child to participate, please contact your child's teacher, fill out the withdrawal form at the end of the parent/guardian informed passive consent letter, or contact the MDI project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca.



District Lead's Role

- Provide resources and communication on the MDI
- Lead presentations/share training and resources
- Organize data collection
- Provide support to teachers and principals





School Systems MDI Leads →

School Survey Administrators →

Coming Soon!

http://discovermdi.ca/mdi-administration

Timeline for District Administration

November/	Online Training: <u>District Administration Webinar</u> November 13, 2025
December	(3:15 – 4:15pm PST)
	☐ Login to e-MDI to review class list upload from MyEdBC or upload Class
	List directly to e-MDI
	☐ Review Email Package #4 – MDI Survey Administrator Package
	O Distribute MDI consent information letters to parents/guardians
	O Distribute MDI survey administration materials
	☐ Host an MDI teacher training session (optional)
January/	Online Training: Survey Administrator Training Webinar January 08, 2026
Mid-March	(3:15 – 4:15pm PST)
	☐ Survey administration: January 13 to March 13, 2026



Informed Passive Consent

- The MDI uses informed passive consent, which means parents are asked to withdraw their child if they do not want their child to participate.
- HELP provides detailed parent/guardian information letters in twelve languages.
- Any parent who does not want their child involved in the project can notify their teacher or email us directly and their child will be withdrawn from the project.





Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) University of British Columbia 440-2206 East Mall Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z3 www.earlylearning.ubc.ca



Understanding Middle Childhood: The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter

Principal Investigator: Eva Oberle, Ph.D., Human Early Learning Partnership, School of Population and Public Health. eva.oberle@ubc.ca

Co-Investigators at UBC's Human Early Learning Partnership, School of Population & Public Health: Kimberly Schonert-Reichl, Ph.D., Magdalena Janus, Ph.D., Martin Guhn, Ph.D., Anne Gadermann, Ph.D. Project Contact: Marit Gilbert, mdi@help.ubc.ca, 604-827-5504

DATE:

AT A GLANCE

- · A survey about social and emotional development, health, and well-being will take place in your child's
- · Your child is invited to complete the survey unless you request to withdraw your child.
- Your child can choose to complete the survey, and can skip questions or stop at any time.
- . If you would like to learn more about the survey, please visit https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoringsystem/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your school and the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) invite your child to take part in completing the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI includes questions about social and emotional development, health, school experiences, connectedness, and out of school time. Students in Grade 4 will be invited to complete the MDI during class time in January/February. The MDI project is sponsored by your school district.

What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of this project is to better understand aspects of children's social and emotional development, health, and well-being that contribute to their success in school and in life. This information helps us understand influences on children's health and well-being. The MDI gives children a voice in sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in school, at home, and in the community, including how they spend their time outside of school. Schools, governments and communities can use MDI information to improve supports and services for children. To view the survey questions, please visit https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parentcaregiver-info/.

What will happen?

Students complete the MDI online, supervised by school staff. The survey takes 45-90 minutes of class time. Several of the questions ask about children's feelings and relationships. There is a place in the survey where your child can ask for help with any problems they are having. If your child asks for help, the teacher and principal will receive an email and they will follow up with your child according to school procedures.

Committee, has established a protocol to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments and Indigenousled organizations with data and reports for Indigenous children. HELP only reports MDI data for Indigenous Peoples through guidance and stewardship of the Aboriginal Steering Committee.

Where can you get more information on the project?

Who can vo

For more information, please visit HELP's website at https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdioverview/. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Marit Gilbert, Project Contact, via email at mdi@help.ubc.ca or by phone at 604-827-5504 or toll free 1-888-908-4050. You can also contact the principal investigator at the email provided below.

If you have ar experiences w of Research Et	Note: Section of the section of t				
Yours sincerely	Please return this form to the classroom teacher participate. You can also email mdi@help.ubc.c administration.		•	•	
Eva Oberle, Pr Professor, Hur University of E	I do not consent for my child [NAME] to participate in the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) survey taking place in January/February.				
Email: eva.obe	Parent/Guardian Name:	Date:			
≫ If you want t	School:	Teacher:			
	his form to the classroom teacher within 2 weeks if you do N O u can also email <u>mdi@help.ubc.ca</u> to withdraw your child ANY		UBC is using the Middle and more about children's side of school. The MDI nities valuable information	Control their emotions Manage their behaviour Feel self-confident Express their needs Show empathy	
i do not consent for my child [NAME] to participate in the		more, read on about visit ng.ubc.ca/mdi	Adapt to changeSet goalsBuild strong friendshipsCope with stress		
Parent/Guardia	n Name: Date:			1 of 2	
School:	Teacher:			MAD	

(12 languages available)



What to do next:

- Log in to the e-MDI system
- Communicate to your principals & teachers about the MDI
 - January 13 March 13, 2026
- Encourage survey administrators to book lab time
 - Book 60 mins for Grade 4 and 5, and 45 mins for Grades 6, 7 and 8
 - Survey works on iPads, Netbooks and tablets as well as desktop computers
- Send MDI Administrator letter to principals and teachers
- Send Parent/Guardian letters to schools to send home with students

MDi



MDI QUESTIONS BRIEF

This brief highlights questions on the Middle Years Development Instrument that children could potentially find sensitive or uncomfortable.



What questions are on the MDI?

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about th lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies. The MDI includes questions related to five areas of children's lives and experiences:



Social & Emotional Development

Children respond to questions about their current social and emotional functioning in 7 areas: optimism, self-esteem, happiness, empathy, prosocial behaviour, sadness and worries.



Physical Health & Well-being

Children evaluate their own physical well-being in the areas of overall health including active transportation, nutrition and sleeping habits.



Connectedness to Peers and Adults

Children are asked about their experiences of support and connection with the adults in their schools and neighbourhoods, with their parents or guardians at home, and with their peers.



School Experiences

Children are asked about their school experiences in four areas: academic self-concept, school climate, school belonging, and experiences with peer victimization.



Use of Out-of-School Time

Children are asked about the time they spend engaged in organized activities such as sports, music and art, as well as the time they spend watching TV, doing homework and playing video games.



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THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT: OVERVIEW

Gaining a deeper understanding of children's social and emotional health.

https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoringsystem/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/

implementation of programs, practices and policies that promote children's social and emotional health and well-being. MDI data are used by school systems and broader community partners, along with families and the children themselves, to work collectively toward positive change during this important transitional time in children's lives.



THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT: PARENT/CAREGIVER INFO

Parent FAQs

https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/ monitoringsystem/mdi/parentcaregiver-info/ The MDI is a strengths-based tool that explores the well-being and experiences of children in grades 4-8 – providing actionable information that supports schools and communities to promote children's health during these critical years of growth and transition.



MADE IN BC

The MDI was developed at UBC in collaboration with researchers, educators, community groups, parents and children and has been used since 2009.



WHOLE CHILD

Provides reliable and valid information about the well-being, health, and assets of children.



CHILDREN'S VOICES

Completed online during class time by children in Grades 4 through 8.



STRENGTH'S BASED

Focuses on protective factors, assets, resilience and well-being.



TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Used to measure trends and patterns at the population-level, not for individual assessment.



MDI IS VOLUNTARY

School administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, and children themselves are all able to choose whether or not to participate. RESEARCH

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Parent FAQs

https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/ monitoringsystem/mdi/parentcaregiver-info/



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I see the questions on the MDI?
Q: Can I see my child's answers to the MDI survey?
Q: Why does the MDI project use informed passive parent/guardian consent?
Q: How is my child's privacy protected?
Q: How much time does it take to fill out the MDI?
Q: Is participating in the MDI a good use of class time?
Q: How does the MDI differ from the Foundational Skills Assessment?
Q: Is my child too young to answer these types of questions?
Q: Can my child with special needs participate? Are there accommodations for children with special needs to participate?
Q: How will information from the MDI be used?
Q: Why is this survey important? What difference will it make?

Steps to MDI Administration in Schools



Survey Administrator Timeline & Checklist

Timeline & Checklist

0CT

☐ Mark your calendars. Schedule your MDI administration date and book your computer lab and/or laptops/tablets.

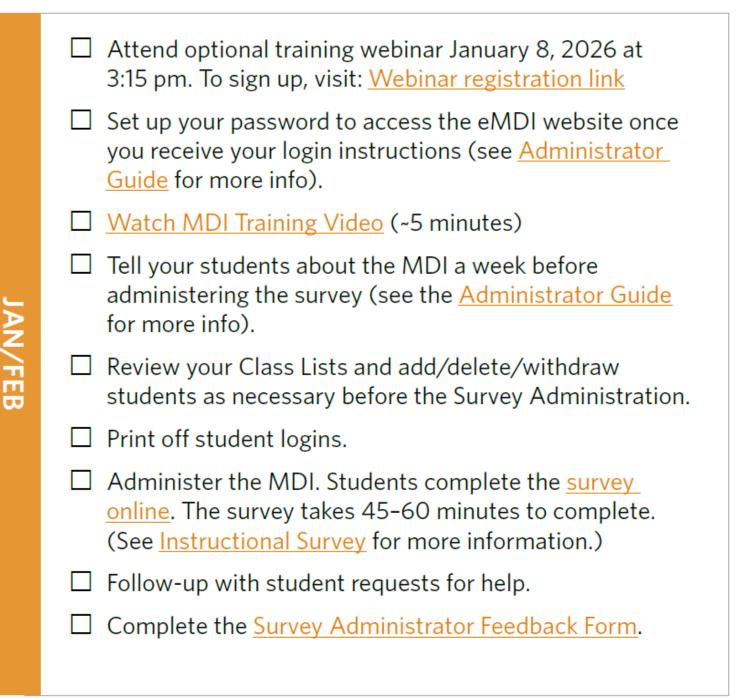
NOV/DEC

- ☐ Read the <u>Survey Administrator Letter</u>, the <u>MDI</u>
 <u>Administration Guide</u> and the <u>MDI Instructional Survey</u>.
- Inform Parents/Guardians! **Distribute Parent/Guardian**Informed Passive Consent Letters at least <u>2 weeks</u>
 before survey administration (excluding winter break).

i.e., to start on January 13, 2026, the opening date of the MDI, letter **must be distributed by mid-December.** Please adjust the administration time of the MDI according to when the parent/guardian letters went home.



Survey Administrator Timeline & Checklist





e-MDI Survey Administration Overview

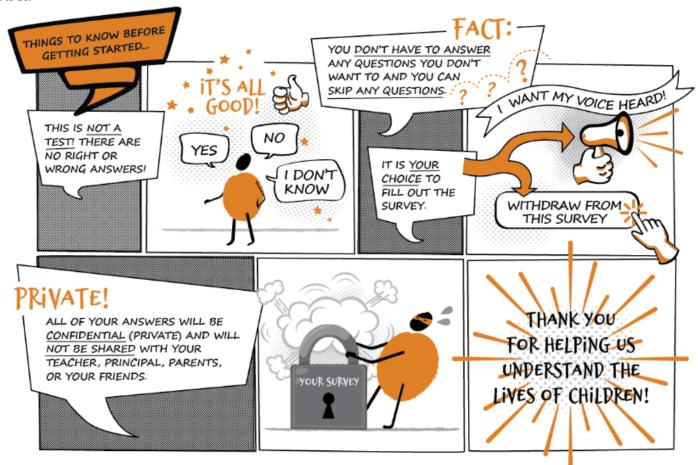
- 1. Encourage your teachers to inform their students about the MDI
- 2. Review class list
- 3. Print student log ins
- 4. Prep an alternative activity for students who aren't participating
- 5. Administer the survey to students (can be over multiple sessions)
- 6. Follow up with student requests for help



Assent Cartoon

Understanding Our Lives: The Middle Years Development Instrument Survey

We would like to learn more about the lives of elementary school children in Canada, and the best way to do that is to ask YOU about your life in school and outside of school. It has been a long time since we were your age, so we need you to be our "teachers", so that we can learn more about the lives of children today. To learn about children your age, we would like to ask you some questions about how you think and feel about things in your life and about what you like to do.





Help for Student Page

Help for Students

Thank you for taking the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) survey. Some of the questions on this survey may have made you think of problems you are having, maybe with other students.

Below is an option to ask for help.

Clicking the first box below will send a private message to your teacher or principal who will follow up with you. If you would prefer not to talk to your teacher or principal, consider talking to a family member or your school counsellor. It is important for adults to know what's going on so that they can help you or other students who may be having trouble. You can also call the Kids HELP phone at 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868.

Would you like to talk to your teacher or principal about a problem you are having?

Yes, I would like to talk to my teacher or principal about a problem I am having

No, I do not need to talk to someone Check your email for any **Student Help Requests.**

Please follow your school's protocol for following up with students.



Help for Student Page

From: mdi@help.ubc.ca

Date: November 7, 2019 at 11:49:31 AM PST

To: maritgilbert@shaw.ca

Subject: e-MDI Student Help Request

The following student has requested to speak with a teacher or principal about a problem they are having.

M Blackberry

While completing the MDI, students are asked questions about their health and happiness; what their lives inside and outside of school are like; and about their relationships with peers and adults, including questions about bullying and experiences of victimization. At the end of the survey (or if a student withdraws from the survey), we make sure that students know they can speak to a caring adult at school if they are having problems.

If a student clicks "Yes I would like to talk to my teacher or principal about a problem I am having" at the end of the survey, an email is automatically sent to the classroom teacher and school principal indicating that the student has requested help. School staff should follow their school's protocol for assisting students who request help. Some students may also approach teachers or school staff in person to discuss problems they are having.

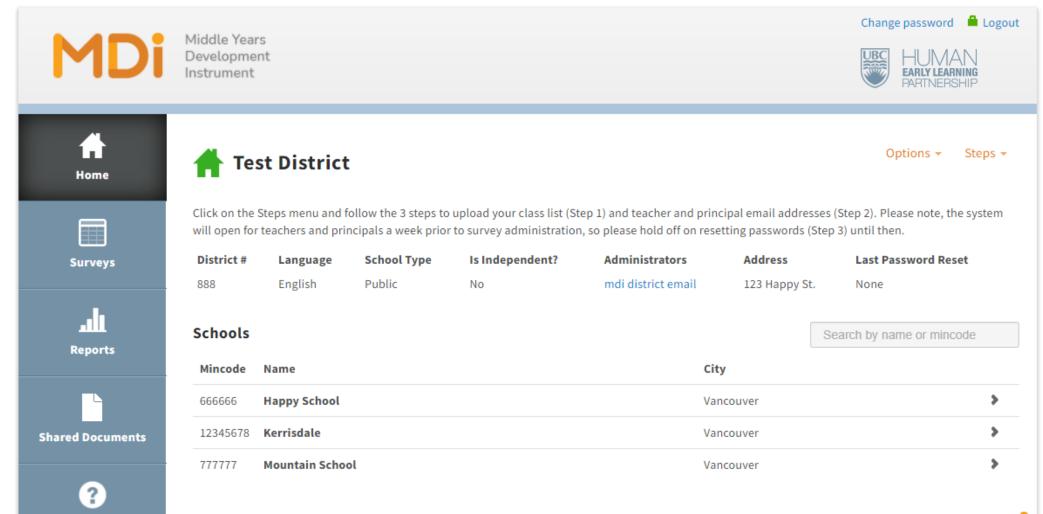
For more information Student Help Request



e-MDI –

Help

www.mdi.ubc.ca





e-MDI users

District Contacts

Upload class lists, reset teacher/principal passwords, track MDI progress and completion

Teachers (and Principals)

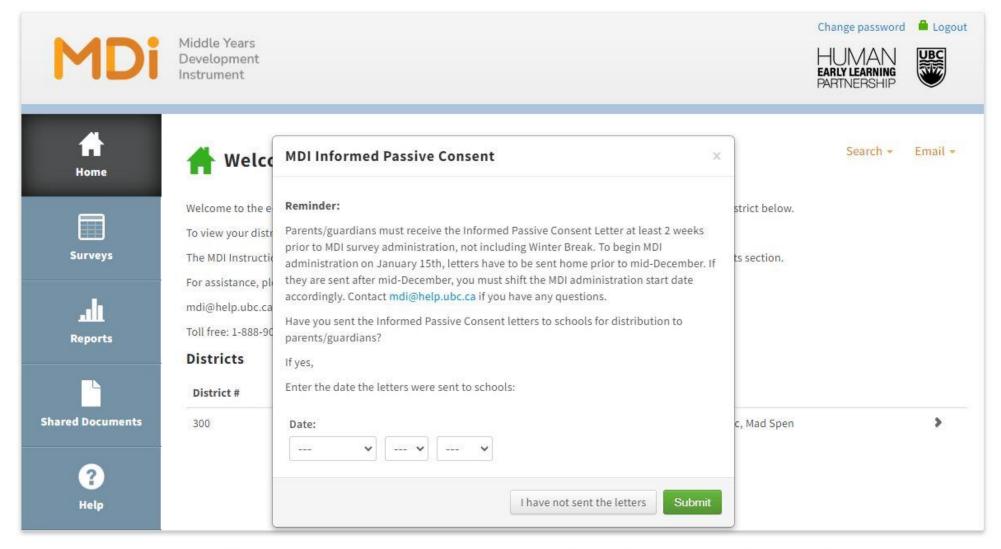
Review/edit class lists, preview survey, print student passwords

Students

Complete survey online during scheduled time



Pop-up reminder







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Engagement Tools

Explore a series of simple and effective tools – from worksheets to lessons plans – designed to support the first steps of sharing and exploring MDI concepts and data with various audiences.

Featured Resource



Working with Kids and Data

Helpful ways to explore MDI data with children

One of the core beliefs underlying the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is that children's voices matter. Asking children for their input can be powerful because it provides rich data on child well-being that would not otherwise be accessible if we did not ask them.

View Page →

research nightights and ideas for

moving to action with MDI results.

scored, and now the results are presented in reports.

Download PDF ****

Download PDF **↓**

Labeled slides are included for you to add your own MDI data.

Download PPT ↓

results and formulate new questions.

Download PDF 🗸

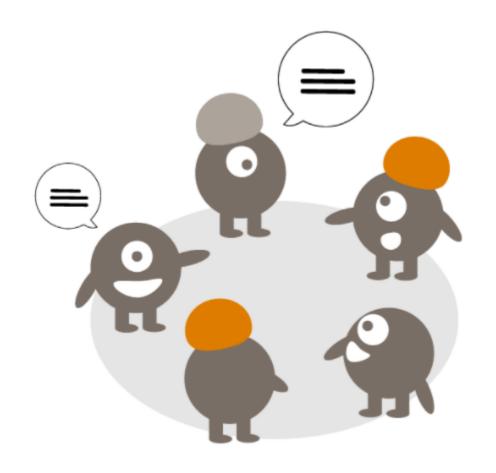
There a survey

used to create change. Commu opportunities to make use of th ata

and

Lesson plans

Lesson plans and slide decks to introduce the MDI to students, explore MDI reports and generate ideas to support action.





Lesson plans

https://discovermdi.ca/mdi-lesson-plans/



MDI Lesson Series 1: Getting to Know the MDI

This Lesson plan features three short lessons that introduce students to the survey including its dimensions and how results are reported

- Lesson Plan 1: What is the MDI?

Lesson 1: What is the MDI? – PDF Intro Lesson 1: What is the MDI? – Slides

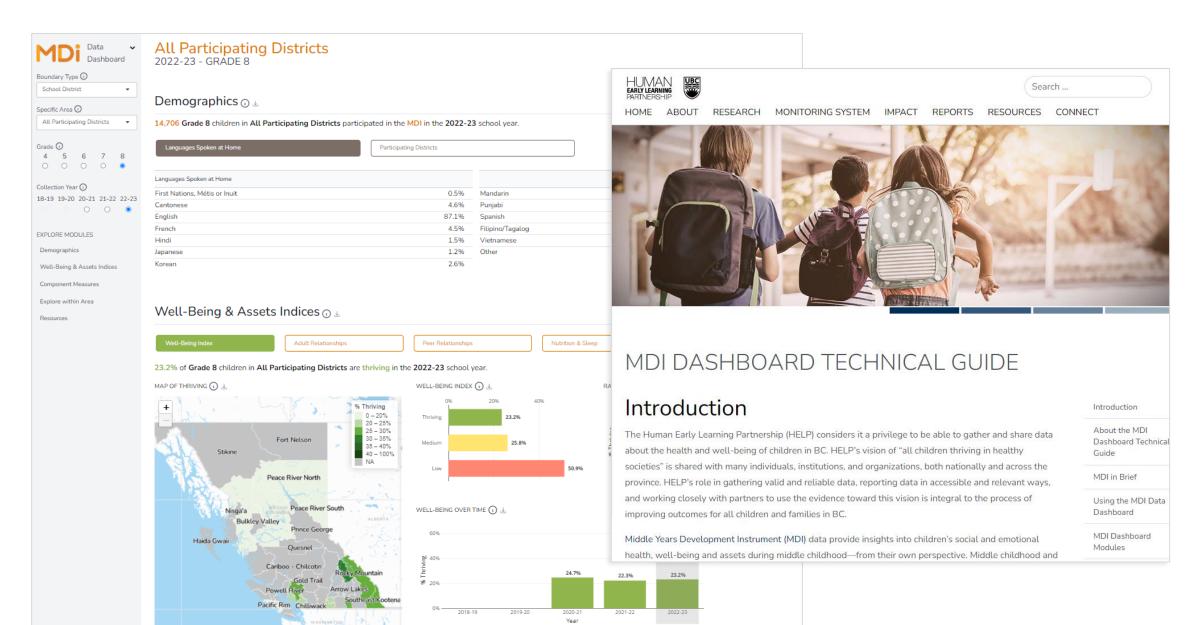
- + Lesson Plan 2: Exploring Assets
- + Lesson Plan 3: Examining MDI Data

ors with a collection of lessons they can use to introduce district results into their classroom curriculum in m and Core Competencies.

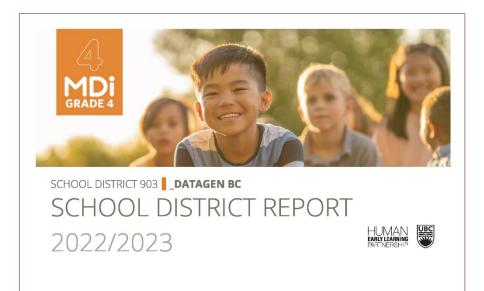
I middle grades students' educational experience. r resources. Implementation guidance is provided to nces in their context.



MDI Dashboard & Technical Guide



MDI Reports & Companion Guide









A Companion Guide to the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

Updated: October 2023





Reports coming in Spring 2026!



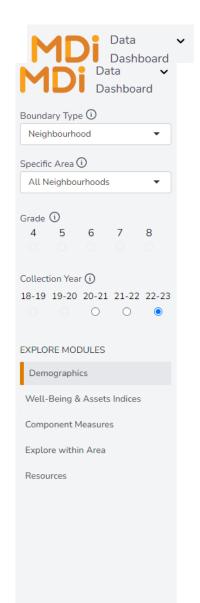
NEW Dimensions Data



NEW Navigation

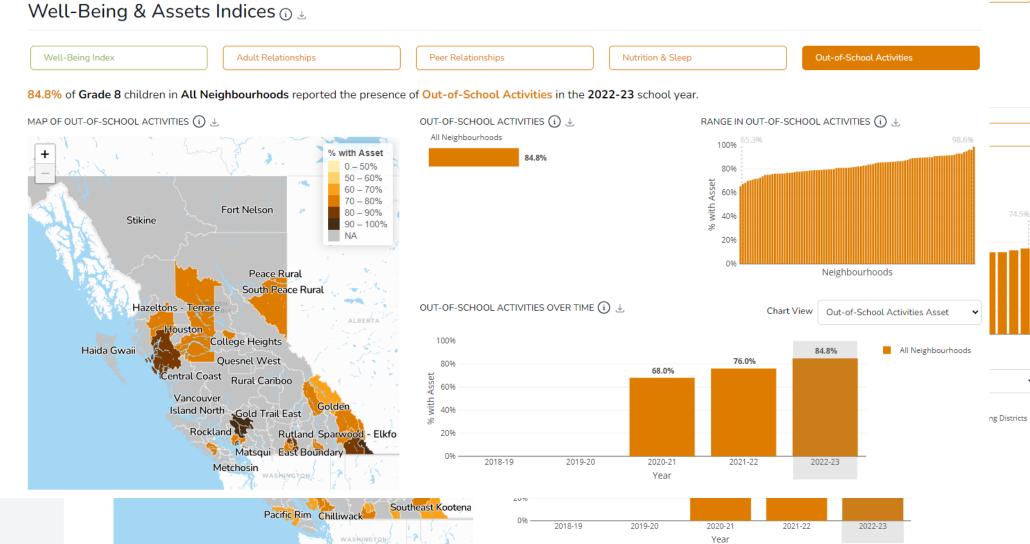


mdi.dashboard.earlylearning.ubc.ca



Well-Being & Assets Indices (i) &







Next Webinar

January 08, 2026 | 3:15 PM (PST)

MDI Survey Administrator Training Webinar

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Our People

HELP is a diverse team of over 40 faculty, staff, students, advisors and affiliates that are passionate about ensuring a better start for all children in BC and beyond. Meet the Team.

Reports & Maps

Explore how data from the Child Development Monitoring System is used to uncover trends and support research across multiple stages of the early life course.

Resources

HELP produces a variety of publications and resources related to HELP's data collection and research activities, along with lists of up-to-date references.

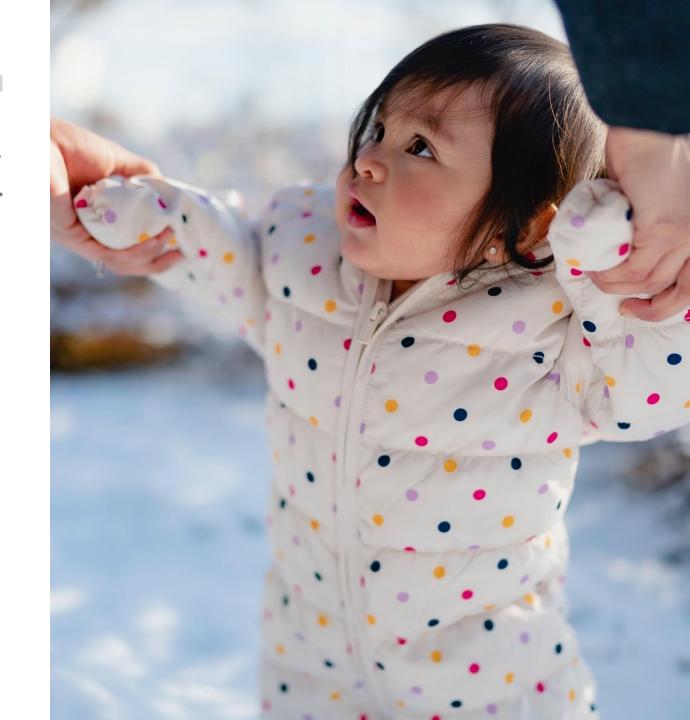
News & Events

Discover recent news, updates, and find out more about HELP events and upcoming presentations.

HELP Connect



Subscribe to our newsletter!





Thank You!

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the survey process, instrument, or reporting, contact us. We will be happy to assist you.

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