

Student Support Needs Assessment 2006 – 2007

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is preparing to do the 2006-2007 installment of the Student Support Needs Assessment (SSNA 2006-07).

Purpose of the Survey

The intent of this survey is to identify the needs of students in each classroom at the time that the survey is completed. Past needs and/or supports are not required or included in this survey, but the survey will ask teachers to project the current and/or future needs of some students.

Previous installments of the Student Support Needs Assessment were conducted in 1993 and in 1999 - 2000. The information gathered in the 2006 – 2007 installment will be used to monitor changes in student needs and programming, and to establish priorities and set direction for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for the next several years.

Purpose of the Information

The Student Support Needs Assessment will provide the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with current information about the realities faced by students and teachers in NWT classrooms.

This information will be used to determine how Education, Culture and Employment staff can best support school staff over the next few years.

Authorization

All District Education Councils/District Education Authorities (DECs/DEAs), Superintendents and administrators are aware of and support this project. Please contact your Principal if you have any questions or concerns about participating.

Confidentiality

The Student Support Needs Assessment 2006 - 2007 is being conducted at the direction of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment who requires current information about the range and degree of supports that students require to assist with their learning. Information will be collected on all NWT students in surveys that will ensure the information remains confidential.

The report developed as a result of the surveys will not identify any individual student, family or school staff. All data will be compiled to describe student support needs across the NWT. Student first names will be used to facilitate data collection but the names will remain in the possession of the classroom teacher. Classroom teachers must keep this list of names in a confidential manner until told to destroy it.

Schools will be provided with an information letter for parents/guardians which explains the Student Support Needs Assessment. However, parent/guardian consent is not required for the following reasons:

- ▶ Information will not be shared that identifies individuals
- ▶ School staff are not being asked to share information that has been gathered for other purposes – only information gathered while working directly with students.

- ▶ The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment requires this information so that he can carry out his duties.

Completion of the Classroom Profiles

Between October, 2006 and January, 2007, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be having school staff participate in the Student Support Needs Assessment 2006 by completing an electronic version of the Classroom Profile. The Classroom Profile will include information about the needs and supports for each of the students in their class.

For Grades K – 9, Class/Home Room Teachers will be responsible for completing the Classroom Profile for the students assigned to their class. This may involve consulting with teachers of other subjects to provide a complete picture of each student.

For Grades 10 – 12, teachers will complete a Classroom Profile for each class that they teach. Results will be compiled according to student number by GNWT staff upon completion of the surveys.

Definition of Student Support(s):

A support is an additional service or device provided in or to the school for individual or small groups of students. Supports are services above and beyond those provided to all students as part of the regular school program. The purpose of providing one or more supports to a student is to enhance development or assist that student to overcome barriers to learning. A variety of supports may be considered/tried to help students overcome difficulties, such as extra assistance with classwork or homework, counselling and behaviour interventions, specialized rehabilitation and medical services, and personal assistance and special equipment.

Pre-Survey Planner

In order to prepare for the SSNA 2006-07, a Pre-Survey Planner has been designed to assist with the collection and organization of information. It also includes standardized definitions and instructions for the kinds of information required and for entering the information.

The Pre-Planner includes the questions that will be asked in the electronic version of the survey. There may be some minor edits or adjustments to the information required in the electronic survey but it will be in the same order and as consistent as possible with this Pre-Planner.

The Pre-Planner is designed to assist teachers with the collection of information over the next several weeks and have it easily accessible when the electronic survey becomes available. Strategies for making the best use of this Planner include inserting any relevant information into the Pre-Planner during or after:

- ▶ a review of the Student Records of the students currently in your classroom
- ▶ having discussions with Student Support Teachers, Principals, previous teachers, parents/guardians and others with an interest in your students
- ▶ preparation and completion of Report Cards and Parent/Guardian-Teacher Interviews

Note: Each student will be assigned a Student Code Number by ECE once the electronic survey is available.

Senior Secondary Version

Because students in senior secondary schools may have a number of different teachers, this version of the survey will be completed in each class. The class subject and level will be identified at the top of each section. Information will be entered based on the students' needs in each particular class. Upon completion of the survey, staff at ECE will correlate and cross check the information based on comparisons of the student numbers.

For students using a semester system, the information gathered in the Student Support Needs Assessment will refer to the first semester only (August 2006 – January 2007).

TimeLines

Staff from Education, Culture and Employment will be distributing Pre-Survey Planners and contacting Superintendents, Student Support Consultants and schools through October, 2006. The electronic version of the survey will be available from November, 2006 through January, 2007. Once the electronic version becomes available, teachers will be able to access the survey from any computer at any time, and will be able to enter information and save it for completion of the survey over a period of time.

Completion of the surveys will be monitored and Superintendents and administrators will be receiving Completion Lists for each school on a regular basis.

Expenses

Education, Culture and Employment will provide sub costs to allow teachers to complete the electronic version of the survey. Sub costs will be calculated based on ¼ sub day per teacher completing a full survey or 4 survey completions/sub day.

SSNA 2006 – 07 Information and Support

The Pre-Survey Planners for Kindergarten – Grade 9 and Grades 10 – 12 are available on the Education, Culture and Employment website. Additional Blank Class Lists are also available for Senior Secondary teachers.

Staff from Education, Culture and Employment will continue to provide updates throughout the completion of the survey.

Any questions or concerns for the Pre-Survey Planner can be directed to:

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Please Note:

The Pre-Survey Planner is for the gathering and organizing of information only.

Each classroom teacher will complete an electronic version of the survey once it becomes available.