

Definitions for Open Data – Student Learning Survey

(Last Updated: October 2023)

Column	Definition
[Definition of extract]	This extract contains data on the Student Learning Survey (SLS) questions and responses from 2016/2017 to 2022/2023 for public school students .
[Technical Notes]	<p>The Student Learning Survey is an annual province-wide census of Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12 students, their parents, and staff in public schools regarding their school experience.</p> <p>As of school year 2016/2017, the student portion of the previous Satisfaction Survey was renamed as the Student Learning Survey. Data and definitions of the Satisfaction Survey are available in another dataset on DataBC.</p> <p>In 2021/2022, SLS underwent a review to update the conceptual framework of the survey such that questions were aligned to measure the Core Competencies stemming from BC's Redesigned Curriculum and the Ministry's Policy for Student Success. The update also introduced questions centered on evaluating the Ministry's Mandate Commitments following the pandemic.</p> <p>Therefore, data from 2021/2022 onward will be different when compared to earlier years as questions have been modified, new questions replaced old ones, and response options have changed. Due to these changes, we advise users to exercise caution when comparing the responses from 2021/2022 onward to earlier years.</p> <p>'Msk' (masked) values are for numbers fewer than 10, to prevent the identification of individuals.</p>
[Key References]	<p>Ministry of Education: Reporting on K-12 Glossary of Terms</p> <p>Student Learning Survey Information</p>
SCHOOL_YEAR	<p>The school year that commences on July 1 and ends the following June 30, based on the session of the survey.</p> <p>For this data set, the earliest school year is '2016/2017'.</p>
DATA_LEVEL	<p>Use this column to select results at the province or district level.</p> <p>Values: 'District Level' 'Province Level'</p>

Column	Definition
PUBLIC_OR_INDEPENDENT	<p>All public schools (all facility types) are expected to participate in the survey (but not all do). Participation is optional for independent schools, but those results are not included in this dataset. Use this column to select only public schools or the province total.</p> <p>Values: 'BC Public School' 'Province-Total' (= a rollup of both school types)</p>
DISTRICT_NUMBER	<p>The number of the school district. This does not include independent school authorities.</p> <p>This value is a 3-digit string (e.g., 005, 023). However, leading zeros may be automatically removed when opening the file in Excel. See the <i>Working with the Student Learning Survey extract</i> guide for tips on how to prevent this from happening.</p> <p>For the actual name of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NAME.</p>
DISTRICT_NAME	<p>The name of the school district. This does not include independent school authorities.</p> <p>For the number of the district, please see the column DISTRICT_NUMBER.</p>
SUB_POPULATION	<p>Use this column to select a subset of the student population. Set this column to 'All Students' to see how all students performed.</p> <p>Values: 'All Students' 'Diverse Abilities' 'Indigenous' 'Non Diverse Abilities' 'Non Indigenous'</p> <p>The binary pairs are 'Indigenous' and 'Non Indigenous'; 'Diverse Abilities' and 'Non Diverse Abilities' are mutually exclusive.</p> <p>'Diverse Abilities' includes all 12 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A - Physically Dependent B - Deafblind C - Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability D - Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment E - Visual Impairment F - Deaf or Hard of Hearing G - Autism Spectrum Disorder H - Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness K - Mild Intellectual Disabilities P - Gifted Q - Learning Disability R - Students Requiring Behaviour Support or Students with Mental Illness

Column	Definition
SURVEY_TOPIC	The subject area for survey questions, based on the conceptual framework of SLS which primarily relate to areas of interest and initiatives of the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Every year, there is only one SURVEY_TOPIC per question. Due to changes in the SLS in 2021/2022, SURVEY_TOPIC may be different when compared to previous years.
SURVEY_QUESTION	The full survey question/statement.
QUESTION_ID	<p>This is an alpha-numeric (e.g., 'Q42', 'NQ3' or 'S27') code that enables the consistent identification of equivalent questions across survey sessions and respondent groups.</p> <p>For example, 'Q42' is assigned to the following questions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Are you satisfied that school is preparing you for a job in the future? <i>(asked of students)</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Are you satisfied that school is preparing your child for a job in the future? <i>(asked of parents)</i></p>
GRADE	<p>The grade level of the survey.</p> <p>Values: '3' '4' '7' '10' '12'</p> <p>Beginning in 2021/22, Grade 3 students in K-3 schools are no longer required to participate in the grade 4 survey. Therefore, from 2021/2022 onward values will only reflect '4', '7', '10', '12'.</p>
POSITIVE_CNT	<p>Count of survey responses grouped into the Positive category. Response options and combinations used for the grouping vary by question.</p> <p>In general, 1 survey response = 1 student respondent.</p> <p>Users may refer to the “Mapping of Response Options to Response Categories” file to identify response options by question that were grouped to the Positive category.</p>
NEUTRAL_CNT	<p>Count of survey responses grouped into the Neutral category. Response options and combinations used for the grouping vary by question.</p> <p>In general, 1 survey response = 1 student respondent.</p> <p>Users may refer to the “Mapping of Response Options to Response Categories” file to identify response options by question that were grouped to the Neutral category.</p>

Column	Definition
NEGATIVE_CNT	<p>Count of survey responses grouped into the Negative category. Response options and combinations used for the grouping vary by question.</p> <p>In general, 1 survey response = 1 student respondent.</p> <p>Users may refer to the "Mapping of Response Options to Response Categories" file to identify response options by question that were grouped to the Negative category.</p>
YES_CNT	Number of respondents reporting "Yes".
NO_CNT	Number of respondents reporting "No".
DONT_KNOW_CNT	Number of respondents reporting "Don't know".
DOES_NOT_APPLY_CNT	Number of respondents reporting "Does not apply". This response option has been removed from 2021/2022 onward.
NO_RESPONSE_CNT	Number of respondents reporting no response/blank response to the question.