The survey consists of two sections that deal with related topics. The first section focuses on equity and inclusive education, and the second focuses specifically on bullying/harassment.

Equity and inclusive education are fundamental requirements for all schools in Ontario. An inclusive education system is one in which:

• all students, parents, school staff, and other members of the school community are welcomed and respected;
• every student is supported and inspired to succeed in a culture of high expectations for learning.

In an equitable and inclusive school climate, all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. Staff and students value diversity and demonstrate respect for others and a commitment to establishing a just, caring society.

When students exhibit discriminatory behaviours – which include bullying and harassment – towards other students, they are often reacting to perceived differences (stereotypes), and do not realize that diversity is one of a school’s greatest assets. Bullying and harassment are hurtful, and therefore unacceptable, behaviours that are never tolerated in a climate of respect and acceptance.

In the first section of this survey, you will be asked questions about how you feel about your school, whether you feel welcome and comfortable participating in school events and on school teams and clubs, and whether you are learning about the experiences of various groups in society. In the second section, you will read about various types of bullying/harassment, and you will be asked questions about incidents of bullying/harassment that may have occurred in your school and about circumstances connected with such incidents.

Remember: Your answers to this survey will help make schools more welcoming and safer for all students.