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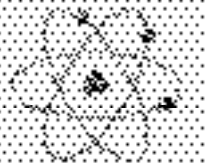
# *School Questionnaire*

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*School Achievement Indicators Program  
Science III Assessment (2004)*

*Council of Ministers of Education, Canada*

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**Council of Ministers of Education, Canada**

**School Achievement Indicators Program**

**Science III Assessment (2004)**

**School Questionnaire**

Your school has been selected as one of more than 1,000 schools in Canada participating in the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) in science. This program is the only comprehensive assessment of academic achievement in Canada, and its results are important for charting the progress of students in the participating provinces and territories and for shaping science curricula and teaching practices.

This questionnaire is addressed to the school principal. The questions are about the characteristics of the school, its staff, its facilities, and the community in which the school is located. Some of the questions ask for specific facts, while others require a judgment or opinion. Since your school is part of a national sample, your responses are very important in helping to describe the teaching of science in Canada. It is therefore important that all questions be answered as carefully and accurately as possible. Please answer the questions in relation to the 2003-04 school year.

This questionnaire is confidential once completed. The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada will not report any result that will allow you, your students, or your school to be identified.

Once you have completed this questionnaire, please return it to your SAIP school coordinator.

**Thank you for your time, effort, and thought in  
completing this questionnaire.**



**1. In what type of community, town, or city is your school located?**

*(For this and the next question, please think of what is generally considered locally to be your community, even if it is located near a larger town or city.)*

- rural community or small town (fewer than 5,000 people) ..... 1
  - medium-sized town (5,000 to 25,000 people) ..... 2
  - small city (more than 25,000 up to 100,000 people) ..... 3
  - medium city (100,000 to 500,000 people) ..... 4
  - large city (over 500,000 people) ..... 5
- 

**2. What grade levels are taught in your school?**

*(Check all that apply)*

- Pre-kindergarten ..... 1
  - Kindergarten ..... 2
  - Grade 1 ..... 3
  - Grade 2 ..... 4
  - Grade 3 ..... 5
  - Grade 4 ..... 6
  - Grade 5 ..... 7
  - Grade 6 ..... 8
  - Grade 7 (Secondary 1 - QC) ..... 9
  - Grade 8 (Secondary 2 - QC) ..... 10
  - Grade 9 (Secondary 3 - QC, Senior I - MB) ..... 11
  - Grade 10 (Secondary 4 - QC, Senior II - MB, Level I - NL) ..... 12
  - Grade 11 (Secondary 5 - QC, Senior III - MB, Level II - NL) ..... 13
  - Grade 12 (Cégep 1 - QC, Senior IV - MB, Level III - NL) ..... 14
  - Post-grade 12 (any program that offers credit beyond grade 12) ..... 15
-

**3. Which of the following best represents the governing structure of your school?**

- public school within a school board or district ..... 1  
separate school publicly funded (e.g., denominational) ..... 2  
private/independent school with its own board of governors ..... 3  
other (please specify) ..... 4

**4. How many full-time equivalent students are in your school?**

students

**5. Approximately what percentage of students in your school would you ESTIMATE . . .**

- |  | per cent |
|--|----------|
| (a) live within walking distance (about 1 km) of the school? .....     | ___      |
| (b) travel to and from school by subsidized transportation? .....      | ___      |
| (c) have a first language other than the language of the school? ..... | ___      |
| (d) have learning problems that need special attention? .....          | ___      |
| (e) come from single-parent families? .....                            | ___      |
| (f) have health or nutrition problems that inhibit learning? .....     | ___      |

**6. To what extent would you say your school schedule is restricted by the travel requirements of students (e.g., bus or drop-off and pick-up)?**

- not at all ..... 1  
slightly ..... 2  
substantially ..... 3  
severely ..... 4

**7. To what extent would you say your programs outside of regular school hours are restricted by the travel requirements of students (e.g., bus or drop-off and pick-up)?**

- not at all ..... 1  
slightly ..... 2  
substantially ..... 3  
severely ..... 4

For question 8 and some subsequent questions, reference will be made to the two SAIP age groups, 13- and 16-year-olds. If the use of age groups presents problems in answering the questions, think of grade 8 (Secondary 2 in Quebec) for age 13 and grade 11 (Secondary 5 in Quebec, Senior III in Manitoba, Level II in Newfoundland and Labrador) for age 16. If only one of these age groups is being tested in your school, please omit the items referring to the other age group.

**8. What is the approximate average class size in your school as a whole and in the science classes for the two SAIP age groups?**

	(i) whole school	(ii) Science age 13	(iii) Science age 16
less than 10 .....	1	1	1
10-14 .....	2	2	2
15-19 .....	3	3	3
20-24 .....	4	4	4
25-29 .....	5	5	5
30-34 .....	6	6	6
35 or more .....	7	7	7

**9. How many full-time equivalent (FTE) persons in the following categories are in your school? (One full-time person, two half-time persons, and so on represent one FTE. If the same person occupies more than one category, use the appropriate fractions of an FTE in each category.)**

	number of FTEs	
principal .....	___ ___	a
assistant or vice-principals .....	___ ___	b
department heads .....	___ ___	c
classroom teachers .....	___ ___	d
other non-teaching professionals (e.g., guidance, teacher-librarians) .....	___ ___	e
teacher aides or assistants .....	___ ___	f
technicians (including library, computing) .....	___ ___	g
technicians (laboratory) .....	___ ___	h
other professionals (e.g., nurses, therapists) .....	___ ___	i
non-professionals (e.g., clerks, caretakers) .....	___ ___	j

**10. What is the most common pattern of teacher assignment for teaching 13-year-old and 16-year-old students in your school?**

	( i ) 13-year- olds	( ii ) 16-year- olds
mainly homeroom teachers who are also responsible for several subjects.....	1	1
mainly teachers who are responsible for specific subjects.....	2	2

**11. Most students in your school are taught science by**

	( i ) 13-year- olds	( ii ) 16-year- olds
teachers specialized in science .....	1	1
teachers not specialized in science .....	2	2

**12. To what degree is your school's capacity to provide instruction limited by the following?**

	not at all	a little	some- what	a lot
(a) lack of parental support for the school	1	2	3	4
(b) range of student abilities in the school	1	2	3	4
(c) students' home backgrounds	1	2	3	4
(d) community conditions (e.g., language, migration)	1	2	3	4

**13. To what extent is your school's capacity to provide instruction limited by shortage or inadequacy of the following?**

	not at all	a little	some- what	a lot
(a) specialized teaching staff (e.g., guidance) .....	1	2	3	4
(b) teachers specialized in science .....	1	2	3	4
(c) non-teaching staff .....	1	2	3	4
(d) instructional materials (e.g., textbooks) .....	1	2	3	4
(e) budget for supplies (e.g., paper) .....	1	2	3	4
(f) instructional space (e.g., classrooms) .....	1	2	3	4
(g) special purpose space (e.g., resource rooms, laboratories, libraries) .....	1	2	3	4
(h) library resources for science instruction .....	1	2	3	4
(i) audio-visual resources .....	1	2	3	4



14. Approximately how many working computers are there in your school?

_____	computers
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15. How many of these computers are capable of handling up-to-date software? (e.g., Windows-based programs, Web browsers)

_____	computers
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16. Approximately how many computers are available to . . .  
(Please note that these categories may overlap.)

	Number of computers
(a) teachers for administrative purposes? .....	_____
(b) teachers for instructional purpose? .....	_____
(c) teachers for instructional purposes in science? .....	_____
(d) students for use within classes? .....	_____
(e) students for out-of-class use? .....	_____
(f) students for use within science classroom? .....	_____

17. Which of the following configurations of computers can be found for use in science teaching in your school?

(Check all that apply)

- dedicated computer rooms or laboratories where science classes can be scheduled .....  a
- one computer in all or most science classrooms .....  b
- multiple computers in all or most science classrooms .....  c
- computers for student use in library or resource centre .....  d
- computers for teacher use in science teacher work spaces .....  e
- other arrangements for student use of computers in classes .....  f
- other arrangements for teacher use of computers .....  g
- computers are generally not used in science courses .....  h

**18. In your school, for the 13-year-olds (or grade 8 or equivalent, as applicable to your school), . . .**

(a) how many instructional days are there in the school year? ( <i>Include only those days on which students are in class.</i> ) .....	_ _ _ _	days
(b) how many days are provided for teacher activities but not student activities ( <i>e.g., professional development days, administrative days, marking exams</i> )?.....	_ _ _ _	days
(c) how many instructional days would you estimate are lost in an average year because of school closings ( <i>e.g., snowstorms, heating problems, sports days, etc.</i> )?	_ _ _ _	days
(d) how many class periods are there in a normal school day? .....	_ _ _ _	periods
(e) how many minutes long is a normal or average class period? .....	_ _ _ _	minutes

**19. In your school, for the 16-year-olds (or grade 11 or equivalent, as applicable to your school), . . .**

(a) how many instructional days are there in the school year? ( <i>Include only those days on which students are in class.</i> ).....	_ _ _ _	days
(b) how many days are provided for teacher activities but not student activities ( <i>e.g., professional development days, administrative days, marking exams</i> )?.....	_ _ _ _	days
(c) how many instructional days would you estimate are lost in an average year because of school closings ( <i>e.g., snowstorms, heating problems, sports days, etc.</i> )?	_ _ _ _	days
(d) how many class periods are there in a normal school day? .....	_ _ _ _	periods
(e) how many minutes long is a normal or average class period? .....	_ _ _ _	minutes

**20. For 13-year-olds (grade 8 or equivalent), are the science courses in your school semestered?**

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

**21. For 16-year-olds (grade 11 or equivalent), are the science courses in your school semestered?**

Yes..... 1

No..... 2

**22. How many different science courses (e. g., chemistry, physics) are available in your school . . .**

	number of courses
(a) for 13-year-olds? (in grade 8, Secondary 2 - QC) .....	____
(b) for 16-year-olds? (in grade 11, Secondary 5 - QC, Level II - NL, Senior III - MB) .....	____

**23. How many total hours of instruction does your school offer in a science course?**

	number of hours
(a) for 13-year-olds? (in grade 8, Secondary 2 - QC) .....	_____
(b) for 16-year-olds? (in grade 11, Secondary 5 - QC, Level II - NL, Senior III - MB) .....	_____

**24. Do all or most students in these age groups in your school follow the same course of study in science?**

	yes	no
(a) for 13-year-olds? (in grade 8, Secondary 2 - QC) .....	1	2
(b) for 16-year-olds? (in grade 11, Secondary 5 - QC, Level II - NL, Senior III - MB) .....	1	2

**25. For the same two age (or grade) levels, how many distinct streams or ability groupings exist for science in your school? (Consider streaming as explicitly having different levels of courses for students of different abilities, not just the availability of course choice.)**

	(i) 13-year- olds	(ii) 16-year- olds
single stream.....	1	1
two streams.....	2	2
three or more streams.....	3	3

**26. Where students do not follow the same courses in science, how much influence does each of the following have in deciding which science courses a student will take?**

	none	a little	some	a lot	don't know	not applicable
(a) general academic ability .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(b) previous achievement in science .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(c) performance on an entrance examination ....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(d) teacher recommendations .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(e) the student's own wishes or choices .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(f) parent wishes or choices .....	1	2	3	4	5	6
(g) interviews or oral exams .....	1	2	3	4	5	6

**27. In your school, to what extent do parents . . .**

	none	a little	some	a lot
(a) act as volunteers in classrooms or other instructional settings? .....	1	2	3	4
(b) act as volunteers in monitoring student behaviour? .....	1	2	3	4
(c) serve on committees on matters of curriculum or instruction? .....	1	2	3	4
(d) serve on committees on matters of finance or administration? .....	1	2	3	4
(e) influence the selection of the principal or teachers? .....	1	2	3	4
(f) serve on committees on matters of student conduct? .....	1	2	3	4
(g) interact with staff on matters affecting their own children? ..	1	2	3	4
(h) help raise funds for the school? .....	1	2	3	4

**28. Does your school provide remedial teaching in science?**

*(Check all that apply)*

- No .....  a
- Yes, groups are formed within regular science classes. ....  b
- Yes, students are withdrawn from regular classes. ....  c
- Yes, peers tutor other students during regular science classes or after school.....  d
- Yes, separate courses are offered for remediation. ....  e
- Yes, students are given extra help outside of regular school hours. ....  f
- Yes, programs are offered outside the school. ....  g
- Yes, other (please specify). \_\_\_\_\_  h

**29. Does your school provide special enrichment programs/activities in science for gifted students?**

*(Check all that apply)*

- No .....  a
- Yes, groups are formed within regular science classes. ....  b
- Yes, students are withdrawn from regular classes. ....  c
- Yes, separate courses are offered for gifted students. ....  d
- Yes, students are given extra work outside of regular school hours. ....  e
- Yes, enrichment programs are offered outside the school. ....  f
- Yes, other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  g

**30. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	strongly disagree	disagree	agree	strongly agree
(a) There are limits to what a school can accomplish because a student's home environment has a major influence on achievement. ....	1	2	3	4
(b) Students can achieve at high levels if they work hard. ....	1	2	3	4
(c) Students can achieve at high levels if they are taught well. ....	1	2	3	4
(d) High school students should be streamed into different programs based on their abilities and aptitudes. ....	1	2	3	4
(e) Student ability has a large influence on achievement. ....	1	2	3	4
(f) This school is supported by the community. ....	1	2	3	4
(g) Staff morale is high in this school. ....	1	2	3	4
(h) There is a strong school spirit in this school. ....	1	2	3	4
(i) Students and staff take pride in this school. ....	1	2	3	4

**Thank you again for taking time from your busy schedule to complete this questionnaire.**