

Developmental Assets Profile & BRSD: Spring 2025

Between April 7th and 18th, 2025, BRSD will be conducting a research survey of our youth in Grades 7-12. The results will help us work together to help young people succeed and thrive in life.

The survey is titled the *Developmental Assets Profile*. The survey focuses on the strengths and supports that youth have and need in their lives. This survey will help BRSD work to ensure that the young people we work with have the opportunities they need to be successful in life. The survey focuses on young people's own perceptions of their strengths. It does not ask more sensitive questions about potential high-risk behaviors.

Overview of Key Points

- The survey is not a test. It is a survey of your child's experiences and opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.
- There are no consequences if your child chooses not to participate. Students who do not participate will be asked to read or study quietly while the survey is administered.
- The survey is anonymous. Your child's name will never be attached to his/her/their responses.
- Participation is completely voluntary. You may refuse participation on behalf of your child and your child can skip items if they so choose and end their participation at any time.
- The survey asks about young people's own experiences and ideas as well as some information about themselves (e.g. age, gender, race-ethnicity).
- Other than some possible discomfort with questions, there are no risks to participating in this study. Your child will be told of his/her/their right to skip any questions he/she/they does not want to answer.
- There is no compensation for participating in this research. However, key overall findings will be shared with families and BRSD staff.
- A copy of the survey will be available for review in your school office from March 17 onward.

The value of a study of this kind depends upon the participation of many youth. We hope you will encourage your child to participate. In doing so, they will help strengthen the supports for youth throughout BRSD.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Whittle at mhcb@brsd.ab.ca. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Andrea Whittle
Program Manager
BRSD Mental Health Capacity Building Program

Fact Sheet: *The Developmental Assets Profile*

The *Developmental Assets Profile*¹ is a survey that examines young people's own sense of their strengths, supports, and skills that are essential for success in school and life. Based on 25 years of research on youth development, it has been used with more than 600,000 youth around the world. The results help to create a common understanding of the strengths and supports in young people's lives in a school, program, organization, or community so that young people can be better supported.

CONTENT

The DAP examines the supports young people have in their families, schools, and communities in four categories: support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and constructive use of time. It examines young people's internal strengths in these categories: commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity.

FORMAT

The DAP is a 58-question online survey for use by youth in grades 4-12 (with different versions for older and younger youth). Most youth can complete the survey in less than 10 minutes.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY

How will young people's answers be used? The DAP will support BRSD in discovery and improvement, offering key insights to help us develop and focus strategies, and evaluate and monitor progress at Division, school, and department levels, particularly as they relate to BRSD Priority 3, Well-Being.

How do you know whether the youth are answering truthfully? Search Institute has tested the survey with many young people. Consistent results have confirmed that the vast majority of youth respond honestly, if they are allowed to take the survey in a time and place that encourages thoughtful responses. In addition, several methods are used to determine whether youth are answering truthfully, and surveys that are clearly not being taken seriously will be eliminated through data analysis.

Who will have access to young people's survey answers? The survey administrator determines who is qualified to have access to survey data, and access is limited to professionals who have appropriate expertise to handle data responsibly and confidentially. Results for the whole group will be used when reporting results. Results will be anonymous and no individual results will be identifiable.

¹ The *Developmental Assets Profile* was developed by and is the property of Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based non-profit organization. **For more information, visit www.search-institute.org**