

What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

The EDI is a short questionnaire that kindergarten teachers complete about the skills and abilities of their senior kindergarten students. It measures children's developmental health and well-being at school entry across five domains:

- Physical Health and Well-Being;
- Social Competence;
- Emotional Maturity;
- Language and Cognitive Development; and
- Communication Skills and General Knowledge.

The average EDI score for each of the five developmental domains are divided into categories based on highest to lowest scores: on track and not on track. Children in the "not on track" category are classified as either *At Risk* (i.e., children who score between the lowest 10th and 25th percentiles) or *Vulnerable* (i.e., children who score below the 10th percentile).

When is the EDI administered in Ontario?

The EDI is a population-level measure that has been collected across Ontario five times, resulting in five "cycles" of data. At first, collection for all areas of the province occurred over three years. Recently, collection occurs for all areas in the province once every three years:

- Cycle 1 (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06)
- Cycle 2 (2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09)
- Cycle 3 (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12)
- Cycle 4 (2014-15)
- Cycle 5 (2017-18)

How can Ontario school boards use EDI data?

The results of the EDI are used by the ministry, school boards, and municipalities to inform decision-making and plan early years programs and services. Individual results are aggregated and can be used to compare differences among and between groups (e.g., gender, age, first language, geographic location), and to examine associations with longer-term outcomes (e.g., course enrolment in academic programs, graduation outcomes). With multiple cycles of data collection, results can also be compared over time to monitor how children's developmental health and well-being is changing and can be linked with other data sources for longitudinal analysis of trends in education.

How was the EDI developed?

A brief background on the history and development of the EDI instrument.

Why is it important that senior kindergarten children participate in the EDI?

Information on the importance of assessing developmental health and well-being in early childhood.

What are the five domains of the EDI?

Definitions of the domains and subdomains of the EDI, as well as examples of related EDI questions.

How do I interpret EDI results?

A description on how to understand and interpret EDI scores.

Is the EDI a valid and reliable measure?

Links to research articles on the development and psychometric properties of the EDI.

Can I access the EDI questionnaire items?

A sample copy of the 2017-18 Ontario EDI questionnaire items. Also available in French.

Where can I find information on the results of the EDI cycles administered in Ontario?

A brief report on the results of Cycles 1 to 4 in Ontario.

Where can I find additional information on the EDI?

The EDI interpretation tool kit provides additional information on the history, development, and administration of the instrument and interpretation of results. Additional information for parents, teachers, partners, and researchers can be found here.