

Taking a closer look at the Youth Development Instrument (YDI)

Youth Development Instrument (YDI): Predicting Successful Trajectories from Childhood to Young Adulthood.

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The Youth Development Instrument (YDI) is a survey for youth ages 15 to 18 which aims to identify resources, opportunities, and practices set youth up for success in adolescence and adulthood. The YDI survey is divided into five distinct sections.



Social & Emotional Learning

Questions in this section cover the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions; set and achieve positive goals; feel and show empathy for others; establish and maintain positive relationships; and make responsible decisions.

For example, questions in this section fall into the following categories:

- Emotional competence
- Social competence
- Identity
- Executive functioning
- Perspective and engaged living



Social Well-Being

Questions in this section ask students about the strength and number of meaningful relationships with peers, family, community members and community belonging.

For example, questions in this section fall into the following categories:

- Family support
- Peer relationships
- Community belonging



Learning Environment & Engagement

Questions in this section ask students about their feelings and experiences concerning their academic work and their school community.

For example, questions in this section fall into the following categories:

- Extracurricular time
- School climate
- School connection
- Mental health in schools



Physical and mental well-being

Questions in this section ask students to describe habits and exposures which affect their physical and mental health, as well their experience with accessing health services.

For example, questions in this section fall into the following categories:

- Physical well-being
- Mental and emotional well-being
- Positive and challenging childhood experiences
- Resilience and thriving
- Health service utilization and help-seeking



Navigating the World

Questions in this section encourage students to discuss how they envision their future and their framework for engaging with their society and environment.

For example, questions in this section fall into the following categories:

- Social values
- Social priorities
- Active citizenship
- Future plans and priorities
- COVID-19 experiences