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First Nations Information Governance Centre  
Le Centre de gouvernance de l'information des Premières Nations

# FNREEES: DID YOU KNOW?



The FNREEES Did You Know? series feature data from the First Nations Regional Early Childhood, Education and Employment Survey (FNREEES). Providing an unprecedented perspective on life in First Nations communities, the FNREEES helps fill data gaps in the areas of early childhood education and development, youth employment and education, and adult employment and labour force conditions.

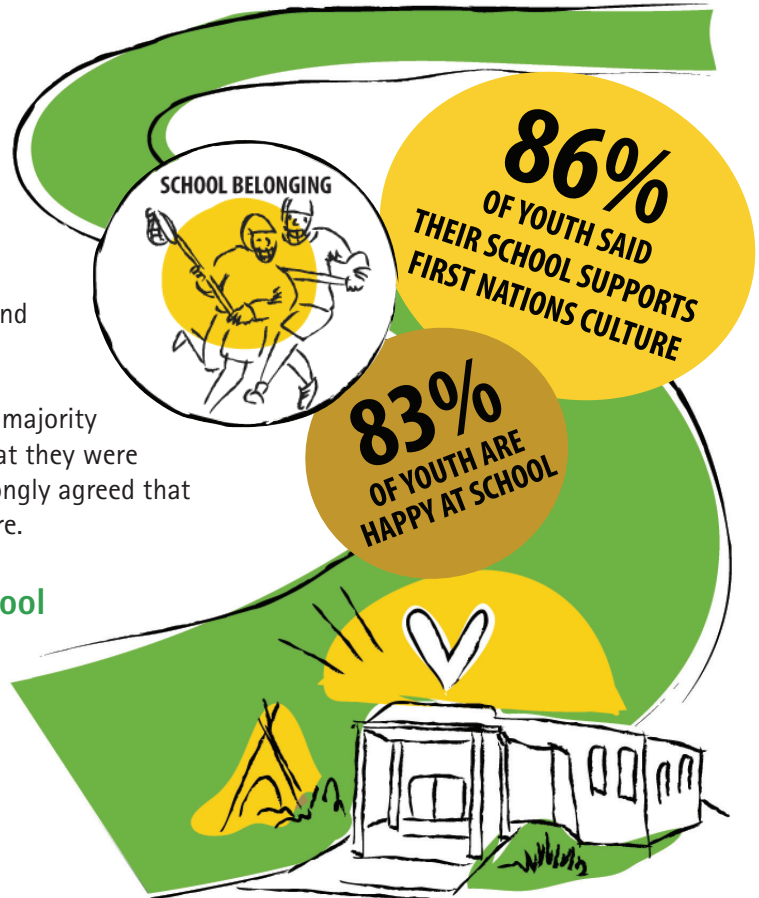
This series brings FNREEES national findings to bear on pressing policy questions in areas the survey addresses. Its purpose is to help ensure that the collective views and experiences of First Nations people, as expressed in the FNREEES, point the way to positive change.

Historically, attempts to measure the educational success of First Nations youth have concentrated on their academic achievement in formal school settings—and comparing it with the academic achievements of non-indigenous youth. The problem with this approach is that it overlooks a range of cultural, family, and community elements that First Nations people consider integral to their learning process.

The FNREEES supports a more complete portrait of the learning experience of First Nations youth. Based on the First Nations Holistic Lifelong Learning Model, the FNREEES was designed to provide data for holistic measures of learning from a First Nations perspective. The portion of the survey focussing on First Nations youth (aged 12 to 17) provides an unprecedented view of the overall First Nations school experience, and a glimpse of some key supports that help them succeed in their formal schooling.

## School Performance and Enjoyment

According to findings from the FNREEES, most First Nations youth reported performing well in school. When youth were asked about their overall performance on their last report card, 16 percent reported that it was "above average", 71 percent reported "about average", and only 13 percent reported "below average". (Note that this included both current students and former ones, i.e., those who had dropped out). Most First Nations youth also appear to have generally positive feelings about school. A large majority (83 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy at school, while 75 percent agreed or strongly agreed that most students at their school enjoyed being there.



## Parental, Family Involvement in School

According to the FNREEES, most First Nations youth reported that their family was involved in their formal schooling. More than three-quarters (76 percent) of First Nations youth reported that their parents, guardians or family members had spoken to, corresponded with, or visited with their teachers.



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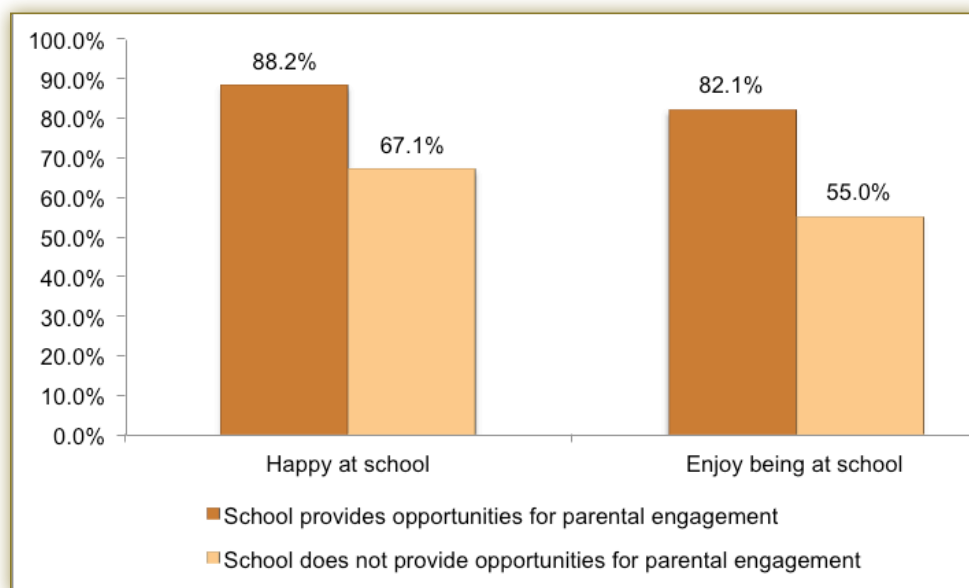
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More than two-thirds (70 percent) of First Nations youth said their parents, guardians or family members had attended a school event that the student had participated in, such as a play, cultural event, sports competition or science fair. More than half of First Nations youth (57 percent) reported that their parents, guardians or family members asked how they were doing in school several times a week, or month.

The influence of parents and family is also related to performance and happiness at school. As the graph below indicates, First Nations youth who reported that parents, guardians or family were involved in their schooling also reported performing better and being happier at school. Likewise, First Nations youth who agreed or strongly agreed that their school provided opportunities for parents to be involved in school activities enjoyed school significantly more than those who did not think their schools engaged parents.

**Youth enjoyment of school by school's degree of parental engagement**



### Conclusions

Reflecting on the responses of First Nations youth, the FNREEES provides information that is crucial for First Nations, schools and parents alike. Work remains to be done to ensure that all youth are supported in schooling. By and large though, First Nations youth are happy at school and feel that their culture is supported. It also shows that parental involvement and a supportive home environment is often linked to formal education success.

For more information about the FNREEES & FNIGC, please visit [FNIGC.ca](http://FNIGC.ca)