

Bullying biggest education worry of parents followed by career preparation

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The vast majority of Canadian parents see bullying as the most important issue facing students, according to a study by the Canadian Council on Learning.

Most parents also believe that schools aren't doing an adequate job of preparing their children for the workplace.

A survey of 2,162 Canadians with children aged five to 24 conducted by Statistics Canada suggested almost half of Canadian parents have a child who has been bullied.

The poll indicated that bullying is a major concern of 80 per cent of parents. Several provinces and school boards have adopted tough new anti-bullying policies and regulations. Those policies have spread to cyberspace to combat a spurt in Internet bullying.

Younger Canadians between 18 and 34 years old strongly believe that students could be doing more to prevent and address bullying in schools, according to the study.

Canadian parents are just as concerned about their children's job prospects.

The council found that while a majority of parents said they're satisfied with the education system, many thought schools weren't doing enough to ready their children to find good jobs and survive an evolving workplace.

The study suggests parents are increasingly doing whatever they can to help put their children in position for a good career.

""Many Canadian parents of kindergarten to Grade 12 students are feeling the need to take action - to be actively involved in directing their child's education,"" said Paul Cappon, President and CEO of the Canadian Council on Learning.

""These indicators of 'intensive parenting' reflect an awareness of the rising demands for skills and knowledge in the workforce - and a desire on the part of parents to give their children the best footing.""

A third of parents said they had hired a tutor, and a majority who chose immersion did so to improve their children's job prospects.

The telephone survey of more than 5,000 Canadians was conducted by Statistics Canada in May and June.

Source: The Canadian Press