

# School perseverance and success in Saint-Michel • English-speaking sector at a glance



The mission of MHS is to mobilize partners in Montreal and become a focal point for initiatives that promote school perseverance. Its main strategy is to support the development of local joint-action plans for targeted areas on the Island of Montreal. MHS is documenting the determinants of school perseverance in these areas to help mobilize stakeholders, develop a common understanding of the issues, and shed light on local priorities.

## Saint-Michel

### POPULATION:

- 142,222 residents
- 23,825 families with children under the age of 18 (a high number of families compared with other areas of the Island of Montréal)
- 31,395 children and youth under the age of 20 (9,665 children 0 to 4 years old and 21,730 young people 5 to 19 years old)

### ESTABLISHMENTS:

- 29 child and daycare centres and 4 drop-in daycare centres
- 3 public schools (1 preschool and elementary schools, 1 high school, 1 vocational training centre) (the elementary and high school being in deprived areas)

### ATTENDANCE:

- 3,499 spaces in child and daycare centres, and 474 spaces in home childcare centres
- 704 students (22 in prekindergarten (4 years old), 23 in kindergarten, 95 in elementary, 470 in high school, and 94 in vocational training programs)

### SERVICES TO THE POPULATION (INCOMPLETE LIST):

- over 37 community organizations and resources for young people and for families with children under 18
- 2 libraries, over 21 parks and green spaces with playgrounds, 1 environmental complex, 4 community gardens (totalling 384 garden plots), 1 bike path, 1 arena, dozens of sports facilities, 5 swimming pools, 1 skateboard park
- dozens of cultural organizations (Maison de la culture, the TOHU, etc.)

## The population of Saint-Michel

More than the Montreal average of 16.3%

A below-average level of underprivileged conditions: 24% of the population lives in the most unfavourable material and social conditions.

- Materially: 3 sub-territories among the most underprivileged on the Island of Montreal

More than the Montreal average of 40.9%

4,800 immigrant families, 68.7% of which have children under the age of 18

More than the Montreal average of 42.1%

59 allophone students in elementary school (62.1%) and 297 allophone students in high school (63.2%)

More than the Montreal average of 43.5%

360 immigrant students in elementary and high school, of whom 29 are foreign born (1<sup>st</sup> generation) and 331 have at least one foreign-born parent (2<sup>nd</sup> generation)

- 57 elementary students are immigrants (60%)
- 303 high school students are immigrants (64.5%)

Less than the Montreal average of 68.1%

Less than the Montreal average of 70.7%

In 2011, 15.7% of English Montreal School Board students drop out; the rate is 20.8% on the Island of Montreal.

In 2011, boys drop out at a higher rate than girls (20.6% versus 11.7%).

English Montreal School Board: 84% high school graduation rate in 2011; the targets are 86% for 2015 and 88% for 2020.

In 2011, 16.3% of students at John F. Kennedy High School leave school without a diploma or qualification.

# in brief

More than one in three kindergarten students begins school vulnerable in at least one school readiness domain; there is a high risk or cause for special concern in the domain of emotional maturity; the eastern sector is at high risk in all five school readiness domains.

A quarter of the population lives in the most unfavourable conditions. The elementary and high school are in underprivileged areas. Nearly one parent in three lacks any sort of diploma, degree or certificate.

In 2011, a little over one student in six leaves John F. Kennedy High School without a diploma or qualification; boys drop out more than girls.

Nearly two-thirds of elementary and high school students are immigrants (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation).

There are many services for families with children under 18 offered mostly in french, and an organized service structure exists in the area, including a community focus on school perseverance.

## The families of Saint-Michel

- More than the Montreal average of 12.7%
  - Depending on sub-territory:
    - **24.7% to 40%** of parents lack a diploma, degree or certificate
    - **29.1% to 49.6%** of families live below the **low-income cut-off**
    - **32.8% to 41.2%** of all families are **single-parent families**
    - **81.4% to 92.3%** of these families are led by women
- More than the Montreal average of 24%
  - **25.2%** of children 0 to 17 years old live in families that receive **social assistance**
- More than the Montreal average of 27.3%
  - **35.3%** of kindergarten students are vulnerable in at least one school readiness domain<sup>1</sup>.
- More than the Montreal average of 84.1%
  - **2 sub-territories** have a high risk or are of special concern in the domain of emotional maturity;
  - Saint-Michel Est is at a high risk in all 5 school readiness domains.

## The youth of Saint-Michel

- Comparable to the Montreal average of 34.6%
  - **10.5%** of students at St. Dorothy Elementary School have **handicaps, social maladjustments or learning difficulties (SHSMLD)**. Among these, 80% are maladjusted or have learning difficulties (SMLD).
- Less than the Montreal average of 19.9%
  - **45.5%** of John F. Kennedy High School students are SHSMLD, with 88.8% of these being SMLD.
- More than the Montreal average of 27.4%
  - **All elementary students** enter school at the expected age of 6 years; all students leave elementary school at the expected age of 12 years; 8.6% of students enter high school later than the expected age.
- More than the Montreal average of 3%
  - At the end of elementary cycle 3, and based on the pass rates for each competency, students do better in French as a second language (69% in oral communication, 76.9% in text comprehension and writing) than in English Language Arts (46.2% in reading; 66.7% in writing) and in mathematics (46.2% in problem solving; 30.8% in reasoning)
- Less than the Montreal average of 89.7%
  - The pass rate is **83.1%** for all Secondary V departmental exams at John F. Kennedy High School.
  - The rate of absenteeism is 11% per day at St. Dorothy Elementary and 9.1% at John F. Kennedy High School.

- Less than the Montreal average
- More than the Montreal average
- Comparable to the Montreal average

See [www.reseautreussitemontreal.ca](http://www.reseautreussitemontreal.ca) for more details.



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<sup>1</sup> 2008 data. The data, by CLSC territory, from The 2012 Quebec Survey of Child Development in Kindergarten (QSCDK) will be available as of spring 2014.  
Sources: Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal, Direction de santé publique (based on the 2006 census; 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012); Collectif quartier (n.d.); Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal (2008); English Montréal School Board (2012) and special commissions by Montreal Hooked on School (2012 and 2013); Conseil régional de prévention de l'abandon scolaire (CRÉPAS) du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean (2011); McAndrew et al., (2010); MELS, Charlemagne system (November 2010, November and December 2011, November 2012); MELS, AGIR system (January 2012); MELS, Direction de la sanction des études, with the participation of the Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et de l'information (2012); Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés (2011); Québec en forme (2010); Statistics Canada (2006 and 2011 censuses); Table Concert d'action enfance-famille (2009); Ville de Montréal (based on 2006 and 2011 census; 2012 and 2013; information portal, 2013); Vivre Saint-Michel en santé, information portal (2011, 2012 and 2013).