

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: When did the change occur?**

A: Implementation was during the 2010-11 school year.

### **Q: Why did this change occur?**

A: The federal government required the change in response to the increased diversity within the United States. The change allows individuals to more accurately identify themselves given the increasing diversity in our nation's population.

### **Q: Are these data used for discrimination or to impact the immigrant status for students or staff members?**

A: No. These data are not used against any student or staff member.

### **Q: If the district selects the race and/or ethnicity, how will the selection be made?**

A: If an individual does not select his/her race and/or ethnicity, the district is required to select on the behalf of the individual. The district will then use observer identification.



## HOW ARE THE DATA USED?

The data are used for the following:

- The Individuals with Disability Education Act requires collection of race and ethnicity data on students with disabilities.
- Required accountability reports collected through the ED*Facts* data collection system.
- To assist the Office of Civil Rights with enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race and national origin.
- To ensure that students receive the educational services to which they are entitled.

## THE DATA ARE NOT USED TO:

- Discriminate against anyone
- Determine immigration status
- Penalize students, parents or staff members in anyway



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Questions?

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## GUIDELINES FOR RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION



# What Parents and Students Should Know

July 2009

## INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Education released guidance on maintaining, collecting, and reporting racial and ethnic data. The guidance brought U.S. ED in alignment with other federal agencies that have adopted the 1997 U.S. Office of Management and Budget Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.

Starting with the 2010-11 school year, all school districts were required to implement the guidance released by U.S. ED.

## SELF IDENTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

Parents or guardians are the primary source for identifying a student's race and ethnicity. Educational personnel self- identify their individual race and ethnicity.

When parents or staff members decline to select their race and ethnicity, the district must determine the race and/or ethnicity by observation. This can be handled through various means, such as family customs, language(s) spoken in the home, country of origin or tribal affiliations within the family.



## IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS

Federal regulations specifically address how data are collected and reported. A mandatory two-part question was implemented for the 2010-11 school year.

The following provides a sample format for the two-part question:

Please answer BOTH parts A and B.

### Part A. Is this student Hispanic/Latino?

*(choose only one)*

- No, not Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Hispanic/Latino

[Part A of the question is about ethnicity, not race. Regardless of what you selected in Part A, **please answer Part B** by marking one or more boxes to indicate what you consider your student's (or your) race to be.]

### Part B. What is the student's race?

*(choose one or more)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

**NOTE:** Both part A and B **MUST** be completed. We encourage you to select an answer for **both** parts. If either part (A or B) is not answered, the U.S. Department of Education **requires** the school district to supply an answer on your behalf.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

**Race:** A distinct human type based on inherited physical characteristics.

**Ethnicity:** Socially distinguishable from other groups and has developed its own subculture which can include nationality, religion, and language.

**Hispanic or Latino:** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. The term Spanish origin can be used in addition to Hispanic/Latino or Latino.

**American Indian or Alaska Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South American (including Central America).

**Asian:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Black or African-American:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**White:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.