

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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**Q: When will the change occur?**

A: Implementation will be during the 2010- 2011 school year.

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

A: The federal government is requiring 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: Will these data be used for discrimination or to impact the immigrant status for students or staff members?**

A: No. These data will not be 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 WILL THE DATA BE USED?

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The data will be used for the following:

- The Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) requires collection of race and ethnicity data on students with disabilities.
- Required accountability reports collected through 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 WILL NOT BE USED TO:

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- Discriminate against anyone
- Determine immigration status
- Penalize the students, parents or staff members in any way



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## NEW GUIDELINES FOR RACE AND ETHNICITY INFORMATION



## What Parents and Students Should Know

July 2009

## INTRODUCTION

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In accordance with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. ED), school districts may need to change how they collect and report race and ethnicity for students and educational personnel. The change will bring educational data reporting into alignment with the U.S. Census Bureau and other federal government agencies.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) are planning to implement these changes beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

## SELF IDENTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

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

When parents or staff members decline to select the race and ethnicity, observers 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

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The federal regulations specifically address how data are collected and reported. A mandatory two-part question must be

implemented for the 2010-2011 school year. The state of Michigan highly recommends that the race and ethnicity data be collected from all students and education personnel during the 2010-2011 school year. This will allow students and educational personnel an opportunity to more accurately identify themselves.

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

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**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.

