

# [District Letterhead]

Sample Parent Letter for Districts

March 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In Michigan, every school district has to collect certain student information, such as enrollment, demographics, and program participation, to share with the Michigan Department of Education. This helps monitor publicly funded educational programs and is required by federal and state laws.

The State School Aid Act added a requirement for districts to gather data on students' tribal affiliations. This data collection was set up with input from the Tribal Nations in Michigan. Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, all schools will provide an opportunity for tribal affiliation to be shared. It's important to note that providing tribal affiliation information to schools is optional.

The data collected will help improve communication with Tribal Nations and may also help districts determine if they are eligible to apply for extra funding to support Indigenous students. For those who choose to share their tribal affiliation, their information is protected by privacy laws like FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and others that prevent discrimination.

If you wish to provide affiliation data for your child, please complete the enclosed form and send it to [LOCATION] by [DATE]. For more information about the data collection, please contact [NAME] at [PHONE NUMBER] or [EMAIL].

Sincerely,

[NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT]

Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure:

# [District Letterhead]

## Sample Tribal Affiliation Questionnaire

NOTE: Responding to this questionnaire is optional. The information collected will support coordination and communication with Tribal Nations and help the district determine its eligibility to apply for additional funding to support Indigenous learners.

Student Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For this data collection, tribal affiliation refers to an individual with ties to one or more Indigenous Nations through citizenship, membership, enrollment, or descendency.

Question A: Is this student tribally affiliated?

- Yes, the student is tribally affiliated
- No, the student is not tribally affiliated

Question B: If the student is tribally affiliated, what is their primary tribal affiliation?

(Choose only one)

- Bay Mills Indian Community
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Hannahville Indian Community
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
- Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
- Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Not Listed