



Policy: Self-Identification Policy

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1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.1 As stated in the Board Mission, Vision and Values statement, Superior North Catholic District School Board values active partnerships, diversity, and an inclusive Catholic culture. As such, it is the policy of the Board to provide a variety of programs as means to help Indigenous students who experience gaps in their education, by putting into place measures that respond to particular needs. All Indigenous students and their parents have the right to voluntarily self-identify so that they may receive supportive programming. The first such measure in recognizing this right is to establish a voluntary self-identification procedure to identify, collect and aggregate student achievement data for Indigenous students.
- 1.2 Indigenous identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2) in that 'Aboriginal peoples' include 'Indian, Inuit and Métis'.

2.0 Security Protocol

- 2.1 All data will be securely stored to respect privacy and used only as a means to enhance Indigenous education programs within Superior North Catholic District School Board and the province of Ontario.
- 2.2 Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2.3 Individual data will only be communicated to education related organizations after individual authorization has been obtained for that purpose. The information gathered by these organizations are used in aggregate only and for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.

3.0 Self-Identification Process

- 3.1 Families of Indigenous ancestry who are prepared to share this information, can indicate the proper Indigenous ID checkbox (e.g. First Nation, Inuit or Métis) on our student registration forms. First Nation now covers both First Nation students living on reserve, as well as off reserve.
- 3.2 Even though a child may be recognized as an Indigenous student living on reserve covered by a tuition agreement, if a student has not voluntarily self-identified, the student's Indigenous status data will not be shared with these educational related organizations.
- 3.3 Students who previously identified themselves as First Nation students living on reserve covered by a tuition agreement, will now be identified as First Nation, as the single First Nation cohort, covering voluntary self-identified First Nation students living both on and off reserve.

4.0 Communication

- 4.1 The data collected as a result of this policy, will be evaluated on an annual basis and the results will be reported to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and the Superior North Catholic District School Board.
- 4.2 Individual data of students who have voluntarily self-identified themselves as Indigenous, will only be communicated to educational related organizations, who in turn, only use this information in an aggregated basis for the purpose of

developing and implementing supportive programs. Existing organizations that wish to obtain aggregate Indigenous student data and who follow the above principle are: EQAO, Aboriginal Education Office of the Ministry of Education, and OnSIS. Data collected by these organizations will be shared with the Ministry.

- 4.3 However, identifiable student information is de-personalized and aggregated prior to any public reporting. Unless required by law, the Ministry does not disclose 'aggregate data' when publicly reporting information if there are five or fewer people involved. It is important to note that the Ministry and these organizations are subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and the Board is required to protect the privacy of the personal information associated with the voluntary self-identification in accordance with this act.

5.0 Collection of Personal Information

5.1 The Notice of Indirect Collection of Personal Information and the accompanying fact sheet provide details about the protection of privacy and are available at:

- 5.1.1 [Notice of Indirect Collection of Personal Information](#)
- 5.1.2 [Frequently Asked Questions about the Notice of Indirect Collection of Personal Information](#)

References

- [Aboriginal Student Self-Identification](#), Aboriginal Education Strategy - Ontario Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Education of Ontario Brochure, [Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students \(PDF\)](#)

Approval and Review Dates

Prior Date Approved: June 14, 2010

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