

Illinois State Board of Education

New U.S. Department of Education Race and Ethnicity Data Standards

LETTER TO PARENTS REGARDING RE-IDENTIFICATION

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In fall 2007, the U.S. Department of Education issued new guidance on the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data for public school students and staff. The guidance implements new federal race and ethnicity categories that were developed to obtain a more accurate picture of the nation's diversity. The new data collection process requires respondents to answer a two-part question, indicating ethnicity first and then one or more of five races. (In the past, individuals were allowed to choose only one race or ethnicity category.)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will use the new categories starting with data to be reported for the 2010-11 school year. This requires school districts to re-identify race and ethnicity for all students—and the identification is to be done by parents or guardians. If a student's parents or guardians decline to indicate race and/or ethnicity, observer identification by school district staff is required.

The new race and ethnicity data will be used in the same manner as previously collected data, e.g., in reporting and analyzing test results by race and ethnicity. The information will not be used to check immigration status, and the confidentiality of individual student information will be protected.

Enclosed is a sheet that provides additional information about the data collection and reporting changes. Also enclosed is the form that parents or guardians need to complete to identify race and ethnicity for their children. Please complete one form per child, and be sure to answer both parts of the two-part question. (Remember that school district staff is required to provide any missing information by observer identification.)

Thank you for your cooperation in providing the needed data. Please direct any questions you may have to the District Human Resource Department, 815-645-2606 ext. 4311.

Sincerely,



Robert Prusator
Superintendent

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Student's Name: _____ **SIS ID:** _____
(will be filled in by the school office)

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is to be filled out by the student's parents or guardians, and both questions must be answered. Part A asks about the student's ethnicity and Part B asks about the student's race. If you decline to respond to either question, the school district is required to provide the missing information by observer identification.

Part A. Is this student Hispanic/Latino? (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.) **Choose only one.**

No, not Hispanic/Latino

Yes, Hispanic/Latino

The question above is about ethnicity, not race. No matter which answer you selected, continue and respond to the question below by marking one or more boxes to indicate what you consider this student's race to be.

Part B. What is the student's race? Choose one or more.

American Indian or Alaska Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America, including Central America, and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)

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.)

Note: Data collected on this form must be maintained by the school district for three years. However, when there is litigation, a claim, an audit, or another action involving this record, the original responses must be retained until the completion of the action.