

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**Q: Why is this change being made?**

**A:** The federal government is requiring the change in response to increased diversity within the United States.

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

**A:** In the 2010-2011 school year.

**Q: How will the provided racial/  
ethnic information be combined for  
reporting?**

**A:** Under the new method there are 64 possible racial/ethnic code combinations. To simplify reporting at federal and state levels, seven categories will be used. All persons identifying with Hispanic ethnicity, regardless of race, will be reported as 'Hispanic.' All non-Hispanic persons who mark more than one race will be reported as 'Two or More Races.' All other non-Hispanic persons will be reported as the single race identified. For an illustration, refer to "How Collected Race and Ethnicity Information Will Be Reported" under the link provided on the back panel.

**Q: Will this data be used for discrimination or to impact the immigrant status for students/staff?**

**A:** No. This data will be used only for informational purposes and will not be used against any student/staff.

## **HOW WILL THE DATA BE USED?**

The data will be used to:

- Ensure students receive educational services to which they are entitled
- Analyze needs of students within the school community
- Obtain more funding for educational services as appropriate

The data will **not** be used to:

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

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The Indiana Department  
of Education

151 W. Ohio  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798  
317-232-0808  
<http://www.doe.in.gov/stn/>  
[www.doe.state.in.us](http://www.doe.state.in.us)

## **Recording Race & Ethnicity Information**

### **What Parents and Students Should Know**



**2009**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The race and ethnicity of students and staff in Indiana public and accredited nonpublic schools will be collected in a new way beginning in 2010.

This is the first change in the way racial and ethnic data will be collected for federal agencies since 1977. Since the racial and ethnic makeup of the country has changed over time, in 1993 Congress held hearings and began a federal research effort to review the classification system.

In 1997, Congress again held hearings on the classifications as part of an effort to identify any changes since the 1993 review in preparation for the 2000 Census.

## **SELF IDENTIFICATION— YOUR CHOICE**

The identification of a student's race and ethnicity is to be primarily made by the parent or guardian; staff will self identify.

For parents/staff who decline to identify, observers may fill in racial and ethnic data, using a variety of information including your family's home country (if you recently immigrated), your family customs, the language(s) that are spoken in your home, or any tribal affiliations in your family history.

## **IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS**

### **QUESTION ONE: Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic/ Latino origin (choose only one)?**

Yes/No

(Please refer to RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS for a detailed description)

### **QUESTION TWO: Which of the following groups describe your race?**

(Please refer to RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS for a detailed description):

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
5. White



## **RACE & ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS**

### **Race:**

A distinct human type based on inherited physical characteristics.

### **Ethnic group:**

Socially distinguishable from other groups and has developed its own subculture—which can include nationality, religion, and language—and has a shared feeling of peoplehood.

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

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

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

**Black or African American:** Persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander:**

Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.

### **White:**

Persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.