

PROUD TO BE
A FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS
OR INUIT STUDENT

VOLUNTARY, CONFIDENTIAL
SELF-IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION





DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA POLICY

It is the policy of the District School Board of Niagara to provide programs and put into place measures to support all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. All First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students have the right to voluntarily self-identify so that they may receive supportive programming and instructional practices that better serve their learning needs. The first such measure in recognizing this right is to establish self-identification procedures to identify, collect, and aggregate student achievement data for students.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHO CAN IDENTIFY?

A: Any student of Indigenous ancestry, First Nations (Status, Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit can identify. This process is completely voluntary and confidential and no proof of ancestry is needed.

Q: HOW IS THE DATA COLLECTED?

A: Students will be able to identify by filling in the student registration form or the student information update form at their home school at any time during the school year.

Q: WHAT IF I DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME?

A: Students and/or Parents/Guardians who do not wish to participate will not check off any box. The self-identification will remain open to all who attend the District School Board of Niagara. You can activate self-identification at any time by requesting a student registration form or self-identification postcard from your child's home school.

Q: HOW WILL THE DATA BE USED?

A: The information provided can assist the board in making program planning decisions. Data can be used to measure student achievement, discover potential achievement gaps, and respond to students at risk. Data can be used to set goals, such as increasing graduation rates and promotion to post-secondary education. Knowing who our Indigenous students are allows us to appropriately designate resources.

The Ministry is committed to addressing the specific needs of all students using an evidence-based approach. Reliable, student-specific data is necessary to support improvement planning, accountability, and to inform policy, funding decisions, measurement and reporting. The Ministry is engaged in ongoing dialogue and partnerships with the provincial Indigenous organizations, including the Chiefs of Ontario, Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.

Q: HOW IS THIS VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL?

A: The choice to self-identify is the sole decision of the student (18 or older) or parent/guardian. The DSBN will continue to support the needs of Indigenous students, whether they have identified or not. Students and their families may “un-identify” at any time if they choose. All student information will be securely stored to respect privacy and used only as a means to enhance Indigenous education programs. Individual data will not be communicated and will be treated in the same manner as the Ontario Student Record and is protected by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.

For further information email:

Indigenous@dsbn.org or

Indigenous Consultants at:

905-641-2929 K-8 ext. 52246,

9-12 ext. 52317



BACKGROUND

The Ontario Ministry of Education's report, released January 2007, entitled "Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework" along with the Policy Framework Implementation Plan, released in 2014, indicate Indigenous education as one of its key priorities. The focus is on improving student achievement and closing the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students in areas of literacy and numeracy, retention of students in school, graduation rates and advancement to post secondary studies. For us to close the gap, we need to understand success rates for all students as a whole, what programs and supports are working and/or what additional supports/programs are needed to help our students be successful in school.

For further information email:

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**I Matter
At DSBN**