

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: What if I do not wish to provide this information?

A: Neither the school district or the state can mandate that individuals provide this information. However, if you choose not to answer both sections of the two-part question, the U.S. Department of Education requires someone from the school district to provide an ethnic and racial designation on your behalf.



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 funding for educational services as appropriate

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rvace-ethnicity.htm

The Colorado Department of
Education

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Recording Race & Ethnicity Information



What Parents and
Students Should
Know

2008

INTRODUCTION

The race and ethnicity of students and staff in Colorado public schools will be collected in a new way beginning in the 2010-11 school year.

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, and any tribal affiliations in your family history.

IDENTIFICATION QUESTION

PART A:

Are you Hispanic/Latino? (Choose only one)

- No – not Hispanic/Latino
- Yes – Hispanic/Latino

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

*The above part of the question is about ethnicity, not race. **No matter what you selected in Part A above, please provide an answer to Part B** by marking one or more boxes below to indicate what you consider your child's race to be.*

PART B:

Which of the following groups describe your race? (choose one or more)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

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



RACE & ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

Race:

A sociological designation identifying a class sharing some outward 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.