
Race/Ethnicity Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Introduction:

The race and ethnicity of students and staff in Colorado public schools will be collected in a new way beginning in 2010. Schools will begin using a two-part question to collect racial and ethnic data. These changes are based on an adjustment in federal requirements, finalized in October 2007 and will affect students and staff in Colorado schools.

Parent/Guardian Topics

General

1. Q: What is the intent and purpose of collecting this data?

A: For accurately reporting and portraying the student and staff population in Colorado to the USDE as well as in statewide reports.

2. Q: How will this new data be used by CDE?

A: For data analysis and reporting purposes.

3. Q: How do I report my child if they are multiple races?

A: You may select multiple races for your child on the form provided by your district or school.

4. Q: Where will this data be sent?

A: The U.S Department of Education (USDE) will receive students' race and ethnicity information by seven categories:
(1) Hispanic/Latino origin of any race; and, for individuals who are non- Hispanic/Latino origin only,
(2) American Indian or Alaska Native,
(3) Asian,
(4) Black or African American,
(5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
(6) White, and
(7) Two or more races.

5. Q: If my child is Hispanic, and is marked as Hispanic, why do I also have to provide an additional race?

A: Both the ethnicity and the race are needed from each individual to ensure consistency within the data collections from all states to the USDE.

6. Q: If my child is graduating, why should I update his/her race or ethnicity?

A: Updating the race/ethnicity categories is not mandated or required if your district has their race and ethnicity from a prior year. However, for more accurate reporting and a better portrayal of the student population in your child's school, you now have the opportunity to update their race and ethnicity.

7. 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.

8. Q: What if I refuse to fill out a question or it leave blank?

A: You have that option; however, the district will be required to use prior information or observe your child to provide this information to CDE. For accuracy, we respectfully ask you to provide the race and ethnicity of your child.

Timeline

1. Q: When will I have to provide the race and ethnicity of my child/children?

A: Districts are required to report the updated race and ethnicity data for their students at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Contact your district to determine when they are requiring this information from the parents in order to meet the deadline.

2. Q: If I miss the opportunity to update the race or ethnicity at enrollment, can I provide the information later on in the school year?

A: You will need to contact your district or school for the particulars, but you should be able to update your child's race and ethnicity at any time during the school year.