

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is this change being made?

The federal government is requiring the change in response to increasing diversity within the United States. The change also reflects the 2010 U.S. Census question on race/ethnicity.

When will the change occur?

The change will occur in the 2010-2011 school year.

How will this new data be used?

The South Dakota Department of Education will use it for data analysis and reporting purposes to the federal government.

Will this data be used for discrimination or to impact the immigrant status for students?

No, this data will be used only for informational purposes and will not be used against any student/staff.

How will race/ethnicity data be reported?

Race/ethnicity data will only be reported to the federal government in groups. It will never be reported on an individual level, and it will not be reported for an individual student.

DATA

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



Reporting Race and Ethnicity

Information for Parents and Students



South Dakota
Department of
Education

INTRODUCTION

The race and ethnicity of students in South Dakota will be collected in a new way beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. The change matches the alterations to the race/ethnicity questions in the 2010 U.S. Census.

A change has been made to the reporting of race and ethnicity in educational data to better reflect the country's growing diversity. The change will require all new students to be identified using a new two-part race/ethnicity question. The federal government has established the two-part question to recognize Hispanic ethnicity and race as two separate and distinct concepts. Additionally, the change allows the reporting of multiple races (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White).

AS A PARENT

It is highly encouraged that parents/guardians answer the race/ethnicity questions for their children when filling out enrollment forms.

The US Educational Department requires a K-12 school to report each student's race/ethnicity information. Therefore, if the parents/guardians refuse to report the race and ethnicity of their child, a school observer will report the race and ethnicity of the unidentified student. For reasons of accuracy and data consistency, parents/guardians are highly encouraged to answer these two questions.

ETHNICITY QUESTION

Required Answers (choose one)

- No, not Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Hispanic/Latino

RACE QUESTION

Required Answers (choose one or more)

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



RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

Ethnicity: The heritage, national group, lineage, or country of birth of the person, or the person's parents or ancestors.

- **Hispanic/Latino:** a person of Cuban, Dominican, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, Spanish, or other Hispanic culture or origin, regardless of race.

Race: Identification according to the race or races with which a person most closely identifies. These categories are sociopolitical constructs and should not be interpreted as being scientific or anthropological in nature. Furthermore, the race categories include both racial and national-origin groups (U.S. Census Bureau).

- **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 maintain 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.