



**AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Report No. 24-012**

**08 February 2024**

**TIER 2 REVISIONS TO POLICY P.071.CUR INDIGENOUS VOLUNTARY  
SELF-IDENTIFICATION**

**Key Contact: Shannon Smith, Superintendent of Instruction, Ext  
#8820**

**PURPOSE:**

1. To seek input on the proposed revisions to Policy [P 071 CUR - Indigenous Self-Identification](#)

**STRATEGIC LINKS:**

2. The proposed updates have been suggested and led by members of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) reflecting the Board's commitments to inclusivity, social responsibility, and authentic community engagement as set out in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

**CONTEXT:**

3. The standing [Policy P.071.CUR Aboriginal Voluntary Self-identification](#) was developed in 2012 in response to the Ministry's [Ontario First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#), 2007 and [Building Bridges to Success for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Students](#), 2007. Although the policy has not been reviewed since 2012, it has served the District well in supporting the self-identification by Indigenous students. The revisions proposed in this report fall under Tier 2 revisions, mainly to modernize the language in which case no change to the current direction is required.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

4. Key Changes
  - Applying the new policy template;
  - Replacing "Aboriginal" with "Indigenous" throughout the policy;
  - Changing the classification of the policy from Curriculum "CUR" to Governance "GOV" as Indigenous data collection informs all aspects of District operations and not only programming offered to students;
  - Replacing "parents/guardians" with "caregivers" in order to be more inclusive of various home situations; and

- Avoiding listing First Nations, Inuit, and Metis nations in order to include other related Indigenous nations.
- Adding a new clause regarding the right of Indigenous students and their caregivers to remove their self-identification data from the OCDSB student information system at any time.

5. New Procedure

In the course of collaboration with members of IEC, a number of details were raised such as where the data collection should take place and the responsibilities of administrators and educators in schools. Staff elected to develop a new procedure that would include such procedural details with the leadership of IEC members. The procedure will be developed throughout the spring and will come to DEC in April.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

6. There are no resource implications to the proposed changes.

**COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

7. The policy was discussed at IEC meetings in the fall of 2023. The IEC struck a working circle to carry the work forward between meetings in order to solicit feedback at each meeting. The working circle met three times in late fall 2023. The final review took place at the January 2024 IEC meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 071 CUR - Indigenous Self-Identification, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-012, be approved.

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Shannon Smith  
Superintendent of Instruction

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Pino Buffone  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Revised Policy P.071.CUR Indigenous Voluntary Self-Identification.  
Appendix B: Standing Policy P.071.GOV Indigenous Voluntary Self-Identification.