

TITLE: ABORIGINAL VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION

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1.0 OBJECTIVES

To establish a process for Aboriginal Voluntary Self-Identification of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

In this policy,

- 2.1 **Aboriginal peoples:** First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
- 2.2 **Self-Identification** refers to the voluntary, confidential, self-described declaration of Aboriginal identity;
- 2.3 **District** means the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board;
- 2.4 **Voluntary** refers to Aboriginal student choice (parent/guardian if under 18 years of age) with regard to disclosure of Aboriginal identity.

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 All parents and/or guardians of Aboriginal students, and students who are 18 years or older, have the right to voluntarily self-identify. The District shall provide a mechanism in order to support the self-identification process for Aboriginal students.
- 3.2 The District, in partnership with Aboriginal parents/guardians and the Aboriginal community, aims to realize the learning aspirations and potential of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students by focusing on quality programs and services.
- 3.3 The identification, collection and aggregation of student achievement data for Aboriginal students assists in determining the success of programs currently delivered, and provide information for future decision-making surrounding program supports and services required to ensure the success of Aboriginal students.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

Collection

- 4.1 The District shall collect the self-identification data through the student registration process for new students and through a voluntary self-identification form for students already enrolled.

Storage

- 4.2 All self-identification data shall be securely stored, in the same manner as Ontario Student Records, and is protected and governed by the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Use

- 4.3 Self-identification data shall only be used as provided for by the Education Act and as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs within the Board. Information gathered shall be used in the aggregate only, and only for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.

Data Sharing

- 4.4 Individual student data shall not be shared or communicated unless specifically provided for in legislation and/or requested by the parent/guardian of the child.

5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Canadian Constitution Act, Section 35, 1982

Ontario Human Rights Code, 1990

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), 1991
Education Act

“Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework”, Aboriginal Education Office, Ministry of Education, 2007

“Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student”, *Developing Policies for Voluntary, Confidential, Aboriginal Student Self-Identification: Successful Practices for Ontario School Boards*. Aboriginal Education Office, Ministry of Education, 2007

Policy/Program Memorandum No.119 “Developing and Implementing Equity and Inclusive Education Policies in Ontario Schools”, 2009

Ontario Student Record Guideline

Board Policy P.098.CUR: Equity and Inclusive Education

Board Procedure PR.618.CUR: Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity