



**TITLE: FIRST NATION, METIS AND INUIT VOLUNTARY
SELF-IDENTIFICATION**

1.0 Rationale:

District School Board Ontario North East ensures that all students have equitable access to educational programs and strives to support all students in achieving academic success. In accordance with the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Policy Framework, accurate student achievement data will be collected to assess progress towards the goals of improving academic achievement for all Aboriginal students.

District School Board Ontario North East recognizes a need to support students of Aboriginal, First Nations, Inuit and Metis descent living both on and off First Nations' communities. Recognizing the rights of all Aboriginal students through implementation of a self-identification strategy is the first step in addressing needs. Students experiencing gaps in their education and achievement will be provided supportive practices specific to their needs. The identification and collection of student achievement data specific to students self-identified as of Aboriginal descent provides an ability to provide precise programming and academic interventions to support student achievement.

Specific to supporting academic achievement of Aboriginal students, District School Board Ontario North East will commit to the following:

1. Continued setting of high expectations for learner achievement in supported learning environments,
2. Provision of engaging learning environments inclusive and respectful of traditions and culture,
3. Improved achievement scores as measured through EQAO assessments in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10,
4. Improved student retention and graduation rates,
5. Ensure that all graduating Aboriginal students are knowledgeable and prepared for postsecondary education and employment,
6. Establish positive and productive relationships with parents and members of Aboriginal communities specific to supporting student achievement.

2.0 Definitions:

2.1 Aboriginal Identification

Aboriginal identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2), in that “Aboriginal peoples” include “Indian, Inuit and Metis.”

2.2 First Nations

First Nations peoples include both status and non-status peoples: status refers to peoples registered under the Indian Act, holding certain rights and benefits that are not available to non-status or Metis people.

2.3 Non-Status

Non-status refers to peoples who consider themselves persons of Aboriginal descent who do not meet the criteria of the Indian Act or who, despite meeting those criteria, have not been registered as a status Indian.

2.4 Metis

Metis means a person who self-identifies as Metis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Metis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Metis Nation. (Source: Metis Nation Resolution, 2002)

2.5 Inuit

Inuit is a distinct group of Aboriginal people who have ancestral ties to Northern Canada (Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador). Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

3.0 Policy:

PROCEDURES



- 3.1 All data will be stored securely to respect the privacy of each Aboriginal student and used only as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs of District School Board Ontario North East.
- 3.2 Individual data and information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and solely for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive program.
- 3.3 All data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and secured by the Freedom of Information and Right to Privacy Act.
- 3.4 Self Identification data will be collected on the Board registration form for all new students enrolled beginning 2006/2007. It shall also be collected on the annual Student Information Update forms for students enrolled as of 2004/2005 school year.

5.0 EVALUATION

- 5.1 The aggregated data collected as a result of this policy will be analyzed on an annual basis. The results will be reported to the First Nation Advisory Committee and to the Board.

- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed annually for its effectiveness.

APPENDIX A

	<p>District School Board Ontario North East</p> <p>First Nations, Metis and Inuit Voluntary Self-Identification and Registration</p>	
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Parent/Guardian Consultation

This form is requested for your son/daughter to have access to the services and/or programs listed below.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____
YEAR MONTH DAY

Birth Date: _____ Male: ___ Female: ___
YEAR MONTH DAY

First Nation Affiliation: _____

Métis: _____

Inuit: _____

Have you relocated from a First Nation? Yes No Date of relocation? _____

<p>Summary of Programs/Services Offered <i>(Not all programs/services are available at all schools)</i></p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Academic support▪ Aboriginal Youth Liaison Officers▪ Programs and referral services▪ Home-School communication (letters, phone calls, etc.)▪ Monitoring of academic progress and attendance▪ School-wide programs/events (e.g. Aboriginal Day K-12) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Early Literacy/Numeracy intervention▪ Homework club▪ Newsletter▪ Cultural Events/Presentations▪ Leadership Conference (Gr. 8-12)▪ Graduation/Scholarship/Bursary post-secondary information |
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I acknowledge that my son/daughter is of Aboriginal Peoples (First Nations, Metis and Inuit descent living both on and/or off First Nations communities).

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date Signed)

(Staff Signature)

(Date of Consultation)

Comments:

<p>PARENTS/GUARDIANS: PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL <i>For further information, please call your Superintendent of Schools at 800-381-7280 or 705-360-1151</i></p>
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