

Voluntary Self-Identification Policy

For Aboriginal Students



Supporting Aboriginal Learners

Who is Involved?

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board and the Algoma District School Board have been collaborating with representatives from the North Shore Tribal Council, Indian Friendship Centre and Métis Nation of Ontario to discuss and seek input into the development of the Voluntary Self-Identification Policy.

For more information please contact your local school board or your Aboriginal organization.



Some Background

A key part of the strategy is the new First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, which will set the foundation for improving achievement among Aboriginal students in provincially funded schools.

All Aboriginal students and their parents are encouraged to voluntarily self-identify so that school boards may implement programs to better meet the needs of Aboriginal students.

Self-Identification is the first step to identify, collect and aggregate student achievement data for program enhancements.

NOTE: Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.



Why the Policy?

1. To direct resources to Aboriginal educational projects that:
 - a. provide high quality learning opportunities that directly address the needs of Aboriginal students experiencing gaps in their learning.
 - b. Improve EQAO test scores for Aboriginal students
 - c. Improve the retention rate for Aboriginal students in Schools
 - d. Increase graduation rates for Aboriginal students and help ensure entrance into post-secondary studies and the world of work
2. To promote effective working relationships with the Aboriginal community and the Boards of Education through parent involvement.

3. To increase the awareness of others of Aboriginal history, culture and traditions.



Some Guiding Principles in Creating the Policy

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Results Oriented
- Learner-Oriented
- Respectful of the privacy and dignity of our students and their families
- Innovative
- Relevant to the learner
- Acknowledgement and reflection of cultural diversity



Policy Implications

It is our intent that the Self-Identification process would be used to better meet the educational needs of Aboriginal students. Additional supports would bring specific programs and services to schools.

All data would be securely stored to respect privacy and used only as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs. Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act. Individual data will not be publicly identifiable. Information gathered will be used in aggregated form only.



Contact Numbers:

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board – 705-945-5400

Algoma District School Board – 705-945-7111

Indian Friendship Centre – 705-256-5634

Métis Nation of Ontario – 705-254-1768

North Shore Tribal Council – 705-256-0216