



PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES
VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

The learning aspirations and potentials of Indigenous students can be realized through a responsive, transparent and accountable policy that focuses on improved programs and services and builds on strong partnerships with Indigenous parents and their communities. Voluntary self-identification allows the Board to collect and aggregate student achievement data to monitor the performance of Indigenous students. Continued data collection and analysis will provide information for future decision-making, surrounding Indigenous student success.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. Self-identification data will continue to be collected on the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board Registration Form for all new and existing students enrolled with the Board.
2. Voluntary self-identification will allow the Board to develop education programs to:
 - i. Better provide high quality learning opportunities that are responsive, flexible, and accessible to Indigenous students;
 - ii. Increase the retention rate of Indigenous students;
 - iii. Increase the graduation rate of Indigenous students;
 - iv. Ensure that Indigenous students are well-prepared for participation in post-secondary studies and the world of work;
 - v. Promote effective, respectful working relationships and partnerships with Indigenous parents and their respective Indigenous community.
3. All data will be shared with OnSIS (Ontario Student Information System) as a means to enhance Indigenous programs within the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board.
 - i. Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records (OSR) and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.
 - ii. Individual data will not be communicated. The information gathered will be used in aggregate only and for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.

iii. Aggregated data is available to each Indigenous community upon written request.

4. This policy will evolve as the Board seeks to improve achievement and program delivery for Indigenous students. For implementation and for future refinement of this policy, the following principles will be used as a guide:

Programs will be evaluated regularly based on their:

- Transparency;
- Inclusiveness;
- Innovation;
- Learner-centredness;
- Equity;
- Responsiveness;
- Collaboration;
- Respect of individual privacy and dignity;
- Results such as student achievement, student retention, student graduation;
- Acknowledgement and reflection of cultural diversity;
- Contribution to the teacher and student knowledge/cultural base and awareness through research (i.e.: developing cultural understanding and cultural sensitivity training).

TIMELINE

The guidelines will be reviewed annually at an Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) for effectiveness and need for continuation, in collaboration with our Indigenous partners.