

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why should parents/guardians or students take part in the voluntary, confidential student self-identification process? HSCDSB has made a commitment to provide Indigenous students with a culturally supportive learning environment. Students will be invited to participate in current and future programs dedicated to achieving educational success and cultural growth.

2. Is Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification only for students who live on a First Nation (reserve)? No. The largest majority of Indigenous residents live in major urban areas. You do not have to live on a First Nation to self-identify.

3. Is Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification only for Status Indians? No. The goal is to self-identify Indigenous ancestry. If you have any degree of First Nation (Cree, Ojibway, Mohawk, etc.) Métis or Inuit ancestry then the student would self-identify as having Indigenous ancestry and indicate First Nations, Métis or Inuit. You do not need a Status card to self-identify your Indigenous ancestry.

4. How will HSCDSB use the information that is gathered? Will the information be made available to the public? No. The information will be used to develop and monitor programs and strategies to improve student engagement, achievement and success.

Promoting Success for all Indigenous Students

The Ministry of Education developed the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2007 and Implementation Plan, 2014, which outlines the strategies to be used to increase educational outcomes for students of First Nations, Métis and Inuit ancestry.

The guiding principle of HSCDSB in implementing this initiative is one of “building communities of faith, hope and service” with First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, parents and Elders through community consultation. This consultative approach is intended to be culturally sensitive and respectful.

HSCDSB will honour the common bonds of spirituality and the values that can be found in our Journey to Holiness and the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS

To cherish knowledge is to know
WISDOM / Nbwaakaawin.

To know **LOVE / Zaagiwin** is to know
Peace.

To honor all the creation is to have
RESPECT / Mnaandendmowin.

To face life with courage is to know
BRAVERY / Aakidehewin.

To walk through life with integrity is to know
know **HONESTY / Gwekwaadziwin.**

HUMILITY / Dbaadendziwin is to know
yourself as a sacred part of Creation.

TRUTH / Debwewin is to know all of
these things.



**HURON-SUPERIOR
CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**

**INDIGENOUS
SELF
IDENTIFICATION**

Voluntary, Confidential Indigenous Student Self-Identification FORM (HSCDSB Policy 7013)

To be completed by parents/guardians or students who are 18 and over. Return this completed form to school office.

Please Print

(first name) (last name)

_____/_____/_____
(date of birth Y/D/M)

(current grade)

(school attending)

Please identify yourself/your student as:

First Nation Métis Inuit

(signature)

(date)

HSCDSB is committed to providing equitable, inclusive and engaging educational opportunities for all our students, including our First Nations, Inuit or Métis students.

This commitment is grounded in our shared understanding of developing a school culture where all our students feel understood, valued and respected.

What is Indigenous Student Self-Identification?

Self-Identification is a voluntary, confidential declaration of ancestry as First Nation, Métis or Inuit of North America.

Voluntary: The choice to self-identify a student's First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry is up to you and does not require proof of documentation (status card).

Confidential: Self-identification information is securely stored and used only to support Indigenous student success.

Student Success: Programs, training, and resources can be directed where student needs are identified to support Indigenous student success.

Communication: Self-Identification allows for direct communication between school, Indigenous students and their families. This improves everyone's ability to be informed of student's needs, programs and resources.



TERMS

Indigenous Peoples: is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. Often, 'Aboriginal peoples' is also used.

First Nation: includes both status and non-status Indigenous peoples. **Status:** refers to people registered under the Indian Act of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC)

Non-status: refers to people who can identify where their ancestral lands are, who are not registered under the Indian Act, due to ineligible registry requirements, or who have not applied for their status.

Métis: refers to a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Indigenous Peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

Inuit: refers to a distinct group of Indigenous Peoples in Northern Canada who live mostly in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador.