



ALGONQUIN AND LAKESHORE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

ABORIGINAL VOLUNTARY, CONFIDENTIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (Policy Statement: Aboriginal Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification)

Purpose

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to achieve to their highest potential, both in school and in later life. Fulfilling this commitment requires recognition that resources must be provided and effective strategies must be developed to meet the particular educational needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in ALCDSB schools. Knowing and understanding Aboriginal students and their families will enable educators to make more informed educational decisions.

1. Use of Data

Personal data related to Aboriginal ancestry may be collected for the following purposes:

- a) Assisting schools in better understanding the demographics of their school populations;
- b) Assisting the school board in assessing which schools may require additional school programming, targeted initiatives, additional support or resources, and the involvement of family and the greater community in the life of the school.
- c) Identifying students who could benefit from additional support.
- d) To measure the School Board's effectiveness in:
 - Using EQAO data to understand and, where possible, to improve the achievement of Aboriginal students.
 - Measuring and identifying possible strategies to improve the retention and graduation rate of Aboriginal students.
 - Credit accumulation

2. Definitions (from Ontario *First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Network*):

- 2.1 Aboriginal Peoples: The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America, Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, states: "In this Act, 'Aboriginal peoples of Canada' includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada." These separate groups have unique heritages, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. Their common link is their indigenous ancestry.

- 2.2 First Nation: A term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian", which many found offensive. The term "First Nation" has been adopted to replace the word "band" in the names of communities.
- 2.3 First Nation Tuition: First Nation student who resides on a First Nation Reserve but attends an Ontario school through a purchase of service based on a Tuition Agreement between a First Nation Band and an Ontario school board.
- 2.4 Inuit: Aboriginal people in northern Canada, living mainly, but not only, in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec, and Labrador.
- 2.5 Métis: People of mixed First nation and European ancestry. The Métis history and culture draws on diverse ancestral origins, such as Scottish, Irish, French, Ojibwe, and Cree.
- 2.6 Status Aboriginal People: Status or Registered Aboriginal people belong to an Indian Band, who are governed by the Indian Act.
- 2.7 Non-status Aboriginal People: First Nation people whose ancestors were never identified as Indians by the government or who lost their status. Non-status Aboriginal People are not eligible for the benefits Status Aboriginal people receive and are not subject to the Indian Act.
- 2.8 Indian Act: Federal legislation that regulates Indians and reserves and sets out certain federal government powers and responsibilities towards First Nations and their reserved lands. The first Indian Act was passed in 1876, although there were a number of pre-and post-Confederation enactments with respect to Indians and reserves prior to 1876. Since then, the act has undergone numerous amendments. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development administers the act.

References

Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Mission Statement
Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework (2007)
Building Bridges to Success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students – Developing Policies for Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification: Successful Practices for Ontario School Boards, 2007
The Education Act
The Ontario Human Rights Code
The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy Statement 2003
Management of Student Information Policy Statement S-2008-04-2
Access to Pupil Information S-2008-04-2

Procedures

1. Aboriginal Self-Identification Procedure

- 1.1 Information brochures on self-Identification of Aboriginal Ancestry by parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 and students 18 years of age and older, shall be distributed annually, at the time of school registration, or at any time that it is deemed beneficial (Appendices 1 and 2).
- 1.2 Parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 and students 18 years of age and older shall have the opportunity to self-identify if they are of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry. The self-identification information will be collected on the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Elementary and Secondary Registration Forms (see *Admission to Catholic Schools A-2007-06-1 Policy Statement and Admission to Catholic Schools A-2007-06-1 Administrative Procedures*).
- 1.3 Self-Identification of Aboriginal ancestry by parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 and students 18 years of age and older, shall be voluntary and submitted in writing by the parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 and students 18 years of age and older.
- 1.4 The self-identification process shall be available to all Aboriginal people, regardless of status. No proof of ancestry will be required.
- 1.5 Parents/guardians and students 18 years of age and older shall be entitled to remove the identification at any time, upon written request to the Principal or by revising Student Information forms which are reviewed annually.
- 1.6 Aggregate data on numbers of students of Aboriginal Ancestry enrolled in Elementary and Secondary Schools in the annual October and March enrolment reports.
- 1.7 Aggregate data on Aboriginal student achievement will be collected and reported by the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

2. Confidentiality and Protection of Privacy

- 2.1 Data collected under this procedure will be in accordance with *The Education Act*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA), the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy, 2003*
- 2.2 Access to individual data will comply with Algonquin and Lakeshore C.D.S.B. *Management of Student Information Policy Statement S-2008-04-2* and *Access to Pupil Information Administrative Procedures, S-2008-04-2*.
- 2.3 Aggregate aboriginal student achievement data will be reported publicly by the Education Quality and Accountability Office ensuring that individual student achievement data will be protected.

- 2.4 All data collected under this procedure will be securely stored to respect student privacy and will be treated under the same rules and regulations that govern Ontario Student Records. (See *Management of Student Information Policy Statement S-2008-04-2 Access to Pupil Information Administrative Procedures S-2008-04-2*).
- 2.5 The data collected as a result of this procedure will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and the results reported annually to Effective Schools Council and the Board of Trustees.

3. Procedure Review

This procedure will be reviewed as required.

Appendices

Appendix 1: I Am Aboriginal - Voluntary Confidential Self-Identification

Appendix 2: Standing Proud – A Voluntary, Confidential, Aboriginal Recognition and Affirmation Plan

Forms

Approved: May 26, 2009