



District Parent Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In an effort to assist Minnesota districts in providing targeted programs and services to help all students succeed, districts are required by law to request more detailed student ancestry or ethnic origin information based on Minnesota's largest groups, beyond what has been collected on enrollment forms under federal law since 2008. Parents or guardians are not required to answer the federal questions (in bold) on the Ethnic and Racial Demographic Designation Form for their children. However, if you choose not to answer the federal questions (in bold), federal law requires schools to choose for you. State questions are labeled as "Optional" and schools will not fill in this information for you. Refusal to respond will not impact enrollment in the school.

As a result of the new law, you are asked to report your child's information. Starting with the 2019-20 school year, all schools in Minnesota will collect this information using these updated categories. The Minnesota Department of Education will continue to incorporate feedback from the public into this form.

To report your child's information, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Houston High School by Friday, September 11, 2020. Note: You may choose to not indicate any of the more detailed selections by marking the "decline to indicate" option(s). You may also choose to mark an "other" option if you do not see your group represented. School staff are not required to assign students to these detailed groups.

Please complete and return the enclosed form. For more information about the reporting categories, please contact Krin Abraham at 507-896-5323 option 5.

Sincerely,

Krin Abraham, Superintendent

Ethnic and Racial Demographic Designation Form

Student's First Name: _____ Middle Name/Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ District: _____ School: _____

Schools are required to report ethnicity and race to the state and to the U.S. Department of Education. Because of recent changes to Minnesota state law, Minnesota disaggregates each category into detailed groups to further represent our student populations. Parents or guardians are not required to answer the federal questions (**in bold**) for their children. If you choose not to answer the federal questions (**in bold**), federal law requires schools to choose for you. This is a last resort—we prefer if parents or guardians complete the form. State questions are labeled as “Optional” and schools will not fill in this information for you.

This information helps improve teaching and learning for everyone and helps us accurately identify and advocate for students currently underserved. The information this form collects is considered private information. You can review the privacy notice to learn more about the purpose of collecting this information, how it will be used and not used, and how the detailed groups were identified. The privacy notice can be found in our [*Frequently Asked Questions: Ethnic and Racial Designation Form*](#).

Is the student Hispanic/Latino as defined by the federal government? The federal definition includes persons of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.¹

[You must select “yes” or “no” to this question.]

☐ **Yes** *[If yes, go to Question A.]*

☐ **No** *[If no, go to Question 1.]*

Optional Question A: If yes was chosen above, select all that apply from the list below (*this question will not be answered by school staff*):

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to indicate | <input type="checkbox"/> Guatemalan | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvadoran | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Hispanic/Latino |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colombian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican | <input type="checkbox"/> Spaniard/Spanish/
Spanish-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecuadorian | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican | | |

Go to Question 1.

[Select “yes” to at least one of the Questions (1-6) below.]

Question 1: Does the student identify as American Indian or Alaska Native as defined by the state of Minnesota? The state of Minnesota definition includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition. [This question is needed to calculate state aid/funding.]

☐ **Yes** *[If yes, go to Question 1a.]*

☐ **No** *[If no, go to Question 2.]*

Optional Question 1a: If yes was chosen above, select all that apply from the list below (*this question will not be answered by school staff*):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to indicate | <input type="checkbox"/> Cherokee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other North American Indian Tribal Affiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anishinaabe/Ojibwe | <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota/Lakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

Go to Question 2.

¹Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 202/Friday, October 19, 2007/Notices/59274

Question 2. Is the student American Indian from South or Central America?

☐ **Yes** [Go to Question 3.]

☐ **No** [Go to Question 3.]

Question 3. Is the student Asian as defined by the federal government? The federal definition includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.¹

☐ **Yes** [If yes, go to Question 3a.]

☐ **No** [If no, go to Question 4.]

Optional Question 3a. If yes was chosen above, select all that apply from the list below (*this question will not be answered by school staff*):

☐ Decline to indicate

☐ Chinese

☐ Karen

☐ Other Asian

☐ Asian Indian

☐ Filipino

☐ Korean

☐ Unknown

☐ Burmese

☐ Hmong

☐ Vietnamese

Go to Question 4.

Question 4. Is the student black or African American as defined by the federal government? The federal definition includes persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.¹

☐ **Yes** [If yes, go to Question 4a.]

☐ **No** [If no, go to Question 5.]

Optional Question 4a. If yes was chosen above, select all that apply from the list below (*this question will not be answered by school staff*):

☐ Decline to indicate

☐ Ethiopian-Other

☐ Somali

☐ African-American

☐ Liberian

☐ Other black

☐ Ethiopian-Oromo

☐ Nigerian

☐ Unknown

Go to Question 5.

Question 5. Is the student Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander as defined by the federal government? The federal definition includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.¹

☐ **Yes** [Go to Question 6.]

☐ **No** [Go to Question 6.]

Question 6. Is the student white as defined by the federal government? The federal definition includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.¹

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

Parent(s)/Guardian Name _____ Date _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Signature _____