



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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() Informational

BULLETIN NO. 004-10 ASSESSMENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
Comprehensive Education Data And Research System (CEDARS) District
Administrators

FROM: Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Implementing New Ethnicity and Race Codes by School Year 2010-2011

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This bulletin provides an overview of new federal and companion state requirements for local educational agencies and institutions to collect and report ethnic and racial student information. The federal requirements are based on the U.S. Department of Education Federal Register 59267, Volume 72, Number 202 from October 19, 2007 (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20613.pdf>) The U.S. Department of Education (USED) is requiring states to collect and report ethnicity and race information consistent with new federal guidelines no later than September 2010. These new guidelines are in alignment with those currently used by the U.S. Census and almost all other federal departments. Starting in September 2010, all student information data concerning the 2010-2011 school year must comply with these standards.

School districts will be required to collect ethnicity and race data using a “two-part question.” The first part of the question asks the parent or guardian to identify their child, or the student (if adult or emancipated) to self-identify, as either Hispanic/Latino or Not Hispanic/Latino.

The second part of the question asks the parent or guardian to identify their child, or the student (if adult or emancipated) to self-identify, as belonging to one or more race. More than one race category can be checked. For example, both “African American/Black” and “White” can be selected. A key reason for the new requirements is to obtain better information about our students, including an increasing number who identify with more than one race. The new requirements eliminate “multiracial” or “more than one race” categories for data collection, requiring the various categories that make a student multiracial.

“Unknown” or “No response” categories are not permitted by USED guidelines. If a parent/guardian or student chooses not to self-identify in terms of ethnic and racial categories, these must be assigned by local school or district personnel.

Coinciding with the new federal guidelines, the state legislature has asked OSPI to be able to report student data in terms of subgroups within ethnicity and race categories. Subgroup data will include 9 Hispanic/Latino categories, 31 American Indian/Alaska Native categories, 15 Asian categories, and 9 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories. There are no subgroup categories for White or African American/Black. A complete listing of the new ethnic and racial categories can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/CEDARS/pubdocs/CEDARSDataManualAppendix.pdf> (Appendices Y and Z).

For the particular racial subgroups within each federal category, OSPI has aligned the subgroup categories for Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students with the categories from the 2000 census. We will also use the 28 federally-recognized Washington tribes plus “Other Washington Indian”, “Other American Indian/Alaska Native”, and “Alaska Native” totaling 31 subgroups for American Indian/Alaska Native students.

School districts may start using the new ethnic and racial codes immediately but this is not required. The first mandatory submission will be September 2010. In order to be ready to implement the new ethnic and racial codes by September 2010, school districts will need to:

- Prepare district data systems to align with these new categories.
- Prepare communications to parents and guardians explaining the change in ethnic and race categories, as well as the re-inventory process. A sample letter and a sample data collection form are available as attachments to this bulletin.
- Re-inventory students’ ethnic and race classifications. Students who are currently enrolled, as well as new students, will need to be classified with the new coding scheme.

Example 1: A student is currently classified as Hispanic. When surveyed her parents may request this student be classified as Puerto Rican for ethnicity and White for race.

Example 2: A student is currently classified as Asian. When surveyed his parents may request this student be classified as Not Hispanic/Latino for ethnicity and Chinese for race.

Example 3: A student is currently classified as African American/Black. After re-inventory, this student may be classified as Not Hispanic/Latino for ethnicity and both African American/Black and White for race.

- Conduct staff training, especially for those who collect, manage, and report student data. A link to a PowerPoint presentation that can be adapted for training can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/CEDARS/Training.aspx>.

The process OSPI and districts will use for reporting data to the USED differs from the process for collecting data from individual students. When reporting data to USED, these seven aggregated racial and ethnic categories apply:

USED Reporting Categories

1. Hispanic/Latino of any race(s);

Or, for individuals who are Not Hispanic/Latino:

2. American Indian/Alaska Native (from any American Indian/Alaska Native racial group).
3. Asian (from any Asian racial group).
4. Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (from any Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander racial group).
5. African American/Black.
6. White.
7. Two or more races from the aggregated racial categories.

The following examples illustrate how the aggregated reporting will work:

Example 1: A parent/guardian or student self-identifies as Hispanic/Latino and African American/Black. This student is reported to USED only in the "Hispanic/Latino" category.

Example 2: A parent/guardian or student self-identifies as Not Hispanic/Latino and African American/Black. This student is reported to USED only in the "African American/Black" category.

Example 3: A parent/guardian or student self-identifies as Not Hispanic/Latino and as Asian and White. This student is reported to USED in the "Two or More Races" category.

The impact of the new ethnicity and race codes on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations and reporting has not been determined. Over the course of the next school year, OSPI will be working with districts and with USED staff to determine how the new codes will be used for AYP.

Beginning in 2010-2011 school year, the expanded categories for the Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and the American Indian/Alaska Native groups will be available for statewide and district level reports and data files provided by OSPI.

For questions on data coding and student information, please contact Andrea Meld at (360) 725-6438 or by e-mail at Andrea.Meld@k12.wa.us. You may also e-mail Robin Munson at Robin.Munson@k12.wa.us.

For more information about CEDARS, please contact OSPI Customer Support at (360) 725-6371 or call toll-free at (800) 725-4311. Agency TTY is (360) 664-3631 or e-mail Customersupport@k12.wa.us.

This information is available on the agency web site at: www.k12.wa.us/bulletinsmemos.

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