

## **Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification Policy for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students**

### Statement of Policy

The Peel District School Board shares the vision, set out in the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007)*, that all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in Ontario will have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed.

In order to assess progress towards this common vision, the Board recognizes it will be important to have reliable and valid data. Consequently, the Board will invite all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students to *voluntarily* and *confidentially* self-identify beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. In collaboration with the Board's First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Circle (FNMIEAC), the Board will develop a means to gather demographic information to support First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success.

The Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification Policy for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students is aligned with, and supports, the principles and expectations of both the Board's *Human Rights* policy ([Policy #51](#)) and its *Equity and Inclusive Education* policy ([Policy #54](#)). At all times, this policy should be interpreted to be consistent with the Board's policies and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

### Rationale / Purpose

- To continue working to improve the capacity of the Board to respond to the learning and cultural needs of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.
- To facilitate increased participation of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit parents, students, communities, and organizations in working to support academic success.
- To increase awareness among non-Aboriginal students, staff, and parents about First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

### Procedure

All students (or parents or guardians on behalf of students) will have the opportunity to self-identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. All data will be collected initially as part of the Board's registration process. However, students (or parents or guardians on behalf of students) will have regular opportunities, subsequent to registration, to self-identify using the Student Verification Form.

The use, and sharing of this data will be governed by the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA). In accordance with the MFIPPA, the Board *may* use the data to make informed decisions about student achievement and *will* share the data – through the *Ontario Student Information System* (OnSIS) - with both the Ministry of Education and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO).

### Student Registration Form

All students (or parents or guardians on behalf of students) will be able to self-select one of the following identities:

- First Nation
- Inuit
- Métis

### Definitions

The Peel District School Board is committed to using language and terminology that is respectful of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. The Board also recognizes that terms used to identify First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada continue to evolve. The following are some definitions both to help students self-identify and to promote general awareness among non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

#### ***First Nations people***

First Nations people refers to one of the original peoples in Canada. For the purposes of this policy, this term encompasses those who identify as being First Nation and/or of First Nation ancestry. It also includes those who identify with a First Nation community and/or an ancestral land.

#### ***Inuit people***

The Inuit people refers to one of the original peoples in Canada. For the purposes of this policy, the term encompasses those who are descendants of one of the original peoples in Canada whose traditional territory and/or ancestry spans the Arctic.

#### ***Métis people***

For the purposes of this policy, the term encompasses those who self-identify as being Métis and who are recognized by the Métis community.

Approved: March 26, 2013

**(NOTE: Policy #81 takes effect in September 2013.)**