

New U.S. Department of Education Race and Ethnicity Data Standards

December 2009

Data Collection and Reporting Changes
Starting School Year 2010-11

Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division
Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

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ISBE Presenters

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- ISBE work group comprised of members representing –
 - Career Development and Preparation
 - Data Analysis and Progress Reporting
 - Data Systems
 - Educator and School Development
 - Special Education Services
 - IBM (SIS)

U.S. Department of Education Guidance

- In October 2007, the U.S. Department of Education issued final guidance on maintaining, collecting, and reporting race and ethnicity data.
- The guidance modified the standards for race and ethnicity data used by the Department. (The standards address how the data are to be collected and reported.)
- The final implementation date for reporting data under the guidance was extended to the 2010-11 school year.

Why the Standards Were Changed

- The new standards implement changes instituted in 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for how federal agencies should collect race and ethnicity data.
- OMB developed the new federal race and ethnicity categories for the purpose of being able to obtain a more accurate picture of the nation's diversity.

Implications for States

- States are required to implement by fall 2010 new federal standards for –
 - Identifying the race and ethnicity of individuals.
 - Reporting aggregate data to the U.S. Department of Education.
- *ISBE will implement the standards starting with data to be reported for the 2010-11 school year.*

The New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories

- ***Ethnicity*** – there is one (1) category:
 - Hispanic or Latino
- ***Race*** – there are five (5) categories:
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - White

A Comparison of the Existing and New Federal Categories

*Existing Categories **

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Asian or Pacific Islander

New Categories

- American Indian or Alaska Native (same)
- Black or African American (same)
- Hispanic or Latino (same)
- White (same)

Split into two categories:

- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

* IL also has a “Multiracial/Ethnic” category.

The New Federal Reporting Categories

- States will be required to use seven (7) mutually exclusive categories to report aggregate data to the federal government:
 1. **Hispanic/Latino** of any race; and, for individuals who are non-Hispanic/Latino,
 2. **American Indian or Alaska Native,**
 3. **Asian,**
 4. **Black or African American,**
 5. **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,**
 6. **White,** and
 7. **Two or more races.**

Re-Identification

- School districts will need to re-identify race and ethnicity for all students and staff.
- Identification for students should be done by their parents/guardians.
- Observer identification by school/district staff is required if a student's parents/guardians decline to indicate race and/or ethnicity.
- School districts decide when to re-identify (during spring 2010 or at the start of the 2010-11 school year).

Data Collection and Reporting

- **Collection** – by school districts of race/ethnicity data from individuals, using a required two-part question
- **Reporting** – by school districts of individual-level and aggregate data to ISBE, using the seven (7) mutually exclusive federal reporting categories

Note: The process for reporting collected data is different than the process for the collection of data from individuals. The new reporting system precludes any double reporting of individuals.

Data Collection from Individuals

The use of this two-part question—with the ethnicity part asked first—is required.

1. Hispanic/Latino (Choose only one.):

- No, not Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Hispanic/Latino

2. Race (Choose one or more, regardless of ethnicity status selected above.):

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

Identification for Elementary and Secondary Students

- Students' parents/guardians respond to the two-part question provided by the school/district.
- Schools/districts must accept answers provided by parents/guardians.
- If parents/guardians decline to indicate race and/or ethnicity, observer identification by school/district staff is required (to provide the missing information).

Data Reporting to ISBE

- **Starting in 2010-11**, Illinois school districts will use the seven (7) mutually exclusive federal reporting categories to report individual-level and aggregate data to ISBE:
 - Hispanic/Latino of any race
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - White
 - Two or more races (includes all who chose more than one race and are not Hispanic/Latino)
- **For SIS reporting**, each category will be assigned a two-digit code. (Codes assigned to existing SIS race/ethnicity reporting categories will not be re-used.)

SIS Codes and Descriptions

- The following codes and descriptions will apply starting with data to be reported for the 2010-11 school year:
 - 11 – Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.)
 - 12 – American Indian or Alaska Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America, including Central America, and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)
 - 13 – Asian (A person 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.)
 - 14 – Black or African American (A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.)
 - 15 – Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)
 - 16 – White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.)
 - 17 – Two or More Races (A person having origins in more than one race.)

Data Storage

- Storage by school districts of the original responses from individuals
 - Records, including the original individual responses to the two-part question, must be kept for three years.
 - However, when there is litigation, a claim, an audit or another action involving records, the records must be retained until the completion of the action.
- As necessary, ISBE may request the response details from schools/districts.

Frequently Asked Questions: Re-Identification and Observation

- Do we *have to* re-identify everyone? Since the U.S. Department of Education only requires seven (7) categories, could we just ask students or staff who are currently “Asian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” to re-identify themselves?

Answer: ISBE has determined that school districts will need to re-identify race and ethnicity for all students and staff.

- What should we do if an individual refuses to re-identify using the new race and ethnicity categories?

Answer: As a next-to-last resort, an observer may look for information in existing employment or student records. If these sources are not available, the observer must rely on visual observation to select ethnicity status and one or more race categories.

- What should we do if an individual who re-identifies as Hispanic/Latino does not answer the question about race?

Answer: An important part of the process is educating data providers and collectors about the federal requirement to separate ethnicity and race. Correspondence and forms need to explain that these are two parts of one question. Follow-up may be needed. As a last resort, an observer must provide the missing information.

Frequently Asked Questions: Re-Identification and Observation (continued)

- What should we do if we believe that a student or a staff member is a different race or ethnicity than he/she claims?

Answer: The school or district must accept an individual's identification of his/her race and ethnicity. Self-identification is a basic principle underlying the federal changes. The *Final Guidance* specifies that the identification of race and ethnicity for elementary and secondary students is to be made primarily by parents or guardians. ISBE has determined that observer identification by school/district staff is required if a student's parents/guardians decline to indicate race and/or ethnicity.

- We routinely collect more categories than the five (5) required race categories. Should we change what we are doing?

Answer: Not if the additional categories you are collecting are subcategories of the five, such as Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Asian Indian, or Vietnamese under "Asian." These subcategories can always be collapsed into the five categories.

ISBE Policy Decisions

- **Re-Identification Is Required**

Rationale: Requiring the re-identification of all students and staff will enhance the accuracy of data to be reported to the federal government.

- **Student Identification Should Be Done by Parents/Guardians**

Rationale: Parents/guardians are more likely to perform race and ethnicity identification with greater accuracy and reliability than students.

- **Observer Identification by School/District Staff Is Required**

Rationale: School/district staff must use observer identification to provide missing information if parents/guardians decline to indicate race and/or ethnicity. This should assist in discouraging parent refusals, and "Unknown " is not an option when reporting race/ethnicity for elementary and secondary students.

- **All ISBE Divisions Must Adopt the SIS Category Names and Coding System**

Rationale: This will enhance consistency in all data collection/reporting efforts and facilitate the merger of files across all programs and agencies.

References and Resources

■ References

- *Final Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting, and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to the U.S. Department of Education.* *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 202, Friday, October 19, 2007.

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.pdf>

- *Managing an Identity Crisis: Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories.* National Forum on Education Statistics, Race/Ethnicity Data Implementation Task Force. (2008). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U. S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

<http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008802>

■ Resources (posted on the ISBE Web site)

- An Introduction to Upcoming Changes
- Data Collection, Storage, and Reporting: District Responsibilities
- Sample Letter to Parents Regarding Re-Identification
- Sample Data Collection Form

<http://www.isbe.net/research/default.htm>

Where to Direct Questions

- *Race/Ethnicity Reporting Questions*
 - Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division
217/782-3950
- *SIS Policy and Technical Questions*
 - ISBE SIS Help Desk
217/558-3600
help@isbe.net