Webinar Q & A: New Federal Race/Ethnicity Standards

	Questions Regarding Ethnicity	Answers
1	Q: Do I understand that if a child is an "11" then, the child can't be "12, 13, 14, 15, 16, or 17?"	Correct. The reporting categories are mutually exclusive.
2	Q: Hispanic students whose ancestry is indigenous to Central or South America are not represented unless you count American Indian?? I understand that many Hispanics are white or black or Asian, but what about the ones who descend from native groups like the Incas in Peru or the Mayans? American Indian?	Descendants of indigenous populations are considered to be American Indian/Alaska Native.
3	Q: How do we report if a parent reports Fed Ethn as Hispanic - yes, but then does not indicate Hispanic as a race?	Hispanic is not a race, so it cannot be chosen. They must pick one or more of the five races.
4	Q: I am confused about why parents that answer "yes" to Hispanic must then choose one of the 5 race categories if the state reporting is only going to be #11 if I am understanding this correctly	The U.S. Department of Education requires race information to be collected. Your district needs to maintain race response details in the event the USDE or ISBE should find it necessary to request this information from the district.
5	Q: If a parent chooses Hispanic/Latino for Ethnicity what are they supposed to choose for Race? Hispanic/Latino's may not be any other race/ethnicity but Hispanic/Latino. What do these folks do? You want them reported as Hispanic but want us to keep both the race and ethnicity category but you do not offer Hispanic/Latino for race.	Hispanic is not a race, so it cannot be chosen. They must pick one or more of the five races based on their geographic or national origin.
6	Q: If a student is marked at Yes Hispanic - and then White - do we code them as Two or More? I don't understand that.	If marked "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1), the student would be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS). Hispanic is not a race.
7	Q: If a students Mother is Puerto Rican and the father is African American would they be two or more races	Hispanic is not a race. If marked "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1), the student would be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS).
8	Q: If one picks Hispanic then for race black and white what happens?	You would save the original data for three years and report the individual as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS).
9	Q: So if I am Hispanic then I would also have to make that I am white?	Not necessarily. You would pick a race based on your ancestry.
10	Q: If someone marks Hispanic ethnicity and white as a race, what code should be in SIS 11, 16 or 17?	Anyone who chooses "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1) will be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS).
11	Q: If in fact someone marks black, white and is Hispanic ethnicity how is that reported as 11?	According to the USDE reporting requirements, anyone who chooses "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1) will be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS).
12	Q: So if someone is Hispanic ethnicity and white they would be multi-racial?	No. Hispanic is not a race.
13	Q: What if they mark Hispanic and race is black? What should the code entered in sis 11,14,or 17	Anyone who chooses "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1) will be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS).
14	Q: Now we are confused! If they have to answer both questions, why would Hispanic not include their race?	Because Hispanic is an ethnicity, based on culture and language, and not a race based on geographic or national origin. You will need to maintain the race response details in the event the USDE or ISBE requests it.
15	Q: If we have a student who is Hispanic, say for example from Mexico, and is not another race, how are they supposed to answer the secondary question of race? There is no race listed as Hispanic, just the ethnicity.	Hispanic is not a race, so it cannot be chosen. They must pick one or more of the five races based on their geographic or national origin.
16	Q: in the data collection from individuals, if answer to question no. 1 is Hispanic, what do I check for question no, 2	You do not check anything. The parent or guardian should choose one or more races based on the student's ancestry.

17	Q: All students must choose a race regardless of Hispanic is chosen for ethnicity, correct? If the student, marks Hispanic they are to be reported as Hispanic unless another race is selected at which time they will be reported as two or more race?	Yes, a race must be chosen for all students. However, if question #1 is marked "Yes," the student would be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS) regardless of the race(s) chosen.
18	Q: It appears that a student cannot be Hispanic/Latino and multiracial under this system. Is that correct?	In terms of *reporting*, that is correct. The seven reporting categories required by the USDE are mutually exclusive, so an individual can only be reported in one category.
19	Q: Looking at the sample collection form and definition of each of the races - Hispanic/Latino from Mexico would not choose a race because definition of races on form do not fit. Can definition of White be changed to include Central America and, South America?	Everyone came from somewhere. Their ancestors were either indigenous, came from another country or a mixture of the two. It may not be a perfect fit, but one of the race categories has to be chosen for each individual. The definitions from the USDE guidance cannot be changed.
20	Q: So if a student is Hispanic/Latino, How can you be Hispanic/Latino but doesn't fit race? Q: How accurate can this data collection be when 90% the time we're deciding the Race for a Hispanic/Latino student?	Observer identification should only be used as a last resort. You have to stress the importance of providing the race data to the parent/guardian. You should **not** be deciding the race for Hispanic/Latino students "90% of the time."
21	Q: So there is no race for Hispanics?	No, not correct. There is at least one race, based on their geographic or national origin. However, Hispanic/Latino is an ethnicity, not a race.
22	Q: So if a parent chooses yes to Hispanic, yes to White and yes to Black. We only report as Hispanic? Do we actually report the race for Hispanic students? I am confused here. Q: Then why we are collecting it?	Anyone who chooses "Yes" for Hispanic (question #1) will be reported as "Hispanic or Latino" (code 11 in SIS). The race detail will not be reported under the USDE scheme, however they do require you collect it and may request it at a later date.
23	Q: If the students are Hispanic (e.g., Mexican), there does not seem to be an appropriate Race category for them to choose. They are NOT any of the 5 races listed.	Everyone came from somewhere. Their ancestors were either indigenous, came from another country or a mixture of the two. It may not be a perfect fit, but at least one of the race categories has to be chosen for each individual.
24	Q: Why is a child counted as Hispanic only, if they are Hispanic, black and white-why aren't they considered more than two races? If the child is black, Asian, and white they are considered more than 2 races. What is the difference?	Because Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race—and ethnicity trumps race in reporting. This is per the USDE guidance which explains the focus on Hispanics/Latinos in the way data are collected and reported.

	Questions on Forms & Procedures	**Answers**
1	Q: Are there any plans to incorporate this data gathering into the Birth certificate process, which would ultimately be more accurate/efficient.	No.
2	Q: Can we combine the Ethnicity/Race data collection questions with our registration forms or does it have to be a separate document?	It has to be a separate data collection document/form. However, the form may be completed as part of your registration process.
3	Q: Can we include the ethnicity/race question on registration forms or do we have to keep this data collection separate?	It has to be a separate data collection document/form. However, the form may be completed as part of your registration process.
4	Q: Can we combine the Home Language Survey with the race-ethnicity into one form?	No. These are two separate data collections and they should not be combined.
5	Q: Do we have to re-identify yearly? Do we have to re-identify again after 3 years?	All students and staff must be re-identified initially (or when they are new to the district), but there is no requirement to re-identify annually or again after 3 years. You do not have to re-identify as long as the student remains in your district (though you may allow parents to review and change data if necessary).
6	Q: Do you have a standard letter with all this info that can be sent out to parents explaining why we are doing this as a school district	A sample letter to parents is posted on the ISBE Web site: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/re_sample_letter.pdf.
7	Q: Do you have to give them the definitions if this will only confuse them? Can we just give them the two part questions?	Parents/guardians cannot provide reasoned responses without knowing the definitions. You should use the two-part question as indicated on the sample data collection form posted on the ISBE Web site: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/re_sample_form.pdf.

8	Q: Do we have to ask these questions every year if they stay in our district or can they just answer this the first time they enroll in the district	All students and staff must be re-identified initially (or when they are new to the district), but there is no requirement to re-identify annually. You do not have to re-identify as long as the student remains in your district (though you may allow parents to review and change their data if necessary).
9	Q: I thought It was illegal to ask about race or ethnicity in employment. Has this changed?	It is not illegal to ask staff to identify their race/ethnicity. However, if they decline to do so, observer identification is not required (as it is for students) and staff race/ethnicity may be reported as Unknown.
10	Q: On page 7 of the PowerPoint presentation, it lists 5 Race categories. On page 9, there are 7 categories listed. If a student marks Hispanic as Ethnicity why is there not a Hispanic Race on the Sample Data Collection Form?	*Hispanic* is an ethnicity, not a race. The 7 categories listed on page 9 are **reporting** categories. If the response to the Hispanic question on the data collection form is **Yes,** the student is to be reported as Hispanic. For further clarification on the difference between the data collection and reporting process and how they but relate to one another, see the Data Collection to Reporting Flowchart posted on the ISBE Web site: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/reporting_flowchart.pdf
11	Q: What happens when a parent who does not want to answer one of the questions, if we use an 'observer' for information and the parent sees that and disagrees with what we listed?	If a parent/guardian refuses to answer a question, you should inform them that if they do not answer you will be required to do so by observer identification. If they still decline to answer, they have little room to disagree with what you indicate. If the parent/guardian reconsiders and answers the question, you have to accept the answer they give.
12	Q: Shouldn't there be a signature line for the parent/guardian filling out the form?	Having parents sign the form is not required. However, you may choose to do this as a matter of local policy if you think it will increase the accuracy of the data and better protect you in the event of a state or federal audit.
13	Q: Will your sample parent letter and sample data collection form be translated into Spanish or any other languages?	At this time, ISBE will **not** be translating the sample data collection form or parent letter into other languages. However, school districts may do so if necessary.
14	Q: The sample data collection form makes this change very clear! Thank you! Q: Do we need to do this every year? Or just for the new incoming students? Do we need to keep a copy for the student's duration at our school (Kindergarten-Eighth Grade)?	All students and staff must be re-identified initially (or when they are new to the district), but there is no requirement to re-identify annually. You do not have to re-identify as long as the student remains in your district (though you may allow parents to review and change data if necessary).
15	Q: may we place a copy of the re-id form in a student file? Should a district retain an original copy for all students regardless if they have moved to another district?	Whether to place a copy of the completed data collection form in a student's file is local policy decision. ISBE recommends retaining the original copy for students who have transferred to another district. The original data collection document with responses must be kept for at least 3 years (longer if this is the way your district chooses to store the response details).

	Questions on Data Storage	Answers
1	Q: Do we have to store the detailed responses from the employee/student or can we just store the converted data codes - 11 to 17?	You are required to store the detailed responses for as long as the student is enrolled in your district. The original data collection document with responses must be kept for at least 3 years.
2	Q: So if a parent says they are black and white we only have to store the data as two or more, we do not have to store the exact responses	No, not correct. You are required to store the detailed responses for as long as the student is enrolled in your district. The original data collection document with responses must be kept for at least 3 years. When reporting data to ISBE, this student would be included in the "two or more races" category.

3	Q: Why is it necessary to store all Race codes a parent indicates in our student information system when 2 or more is reported to the state? Can't the detailed information be stored on the form filled out by the parent?	Storing the detailed responses is required, in the event that ISBE or the U.S. Department of Education needs to review them for any reason. However, you may store them either on paper or electronically, at your district's discretion. You are required to store the detailed responses for as long as the student is enrolled in your district. The original data collection document with responses must be kept for at least 3 years (longer if this is the way your district chooses to store the response details).
4	Q: Must the file be retained if the student transfers to another district/school?	The detail must be kept for a minimum of 3 years (barring litigation, a claim, an audit, or another action involving the records), even if a student transfers to another district before the 3 years is up.
5	Q: If parents re-identify from year to year, how long do we need to keep each change?	Three years from its collection date. However, this would be based on parent request. There is no requirement to re-identify annually or again after 3 years—so you do not have to re-identify as long as the student remains in your district.
6	Q: While we will report data that indicates two or more races, you would like us to maintain data on which racial categories are selected?	Yes, correct. Storing the detailed responses is required, in the event that ISBE or the U.S. Department of Education needs to review them for any reason. The original data collection document with responses must be kept for at least 3 years.

	Other Questions	**Answers**
1	Q: In other words, are the new standards required for the August, 2010 enrollment? What is the deadline for new reporting? August, 2010?	Yes, correct. There is not a deadline, per se; however, race/ethnicity data will need to be reported when entering information in the ISBE Student Information System (SIS) by mid-October for students enrolled in your district as of the last school day in September. All data reported for the 2010-11 school year (and thereafter) must meet the new standards.
2	Q: If observation is necessary, because the parent did not answer the question initially, should the parent be requested to physically appear to document the race and ethnicity of the student for original documentation versus a verbal commitment on the phone?	This would not be required.
3	Q: Is two or more races replacing multi-racial? Are these terms interchangeable? Q: Is there Specific wording that need to be there when asking the questions?	The current Multiracial/Ethnic category used in Illinois and the new Two or More Races reporting category are not interchangeable. See required wording for the two-part question on the sample data collection form posted on the ISBE Web site: http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/re_sample_form.pdf.
4	Q: What code will be used for IL Multiracial/Ethnic	Beginning with data to be reported for the 2010-11 school year, the Multiracial/Ethnic will no longer be a data collection or reporting category. There is not a new category that is interchangeable with this category.
5	Q: Is the updated enrollment form available online.	There is a sample data collection form posted on the ISBE Web site at http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/re_sample_form.pdf. The new ISBE Student Information System (ISBE) reporting categories and codes will not be posted on the ISBE Web site. (http://www.isbe.net/sis/html/data_elements.htm) until the beginning of next school year; however, you can see them on **slide 15** of the race/ethnicity PowerPoint posted at http://www.isbe.net/research/default.htm.
6	Q: On our system, we currently collect the federal and the required state codes, for 10/11 is IL going to convert the federal data to the state codes? Thereby we can eliminate the current state data codes in our system?	All state and federal reporting must meet the new standards beginning with data reported for the 2010-11 school year. The ISBE Student Information System (SIS) codes that will be used are shown on **slide 15** of the race/ethnicity PowerPoint posted at http://www.isbe.net/research/default.htm.
7	Q: Where did the definitions come from for the races?	The definitions are per the final guidance that was issued by the U.S. Department of Education and published in the October 19, 2007, Federal Register: http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.pdf.

8	Q: When do we need to start gathering this information?	The start time will depend on how long it will take your district to <u>complete</u> the re-identification. However, race/ethnicity data will need to be reported when entering information in the ISBE Student Information System (SIS) by mid-October for students enrolled in your district as of the last school day in September. All data reported for the 2010-11 school year (and thereafter) must meet the new standards.
9	Q: Tough question, but I have to ask. How can this be considered a more accurate collection of data when the definitions are so open to interpretation? If someone born in Mexico has to "use his best judgment" to decide whether he is white or American Indian, how can this be considered accurate data on race?	It will better reflect the diversity of the population because individuals can now indicate whether they are Hispanic/Latino (the ethnicity part) and indicate their race(s). They are now able to choose more than one race.
10	Q: What is the legality of completing a registration form for a student/parent? Related to observable identification.	Observer identification is required if a parent declines to respond to either of the two questions required for this data collection. In this situation, it is legal for school district personnel to provide any missing information, based on what they know about the student.
11	Q: When a student moves into our district who has been re-identified by their previous district, and there is a form in the student records, can we accept that information? Or, should we include the two-part question in our registration materials for every student new to our district, regardless of whether or not they've attended an Illinois school previously?	ISBE recommends re-identifying students who are new to your district, as part of the registration process.
12	Q: Why is the state having two different processes, one for collecting and one for reporting?	This is a requirement in the final guidance that was issued by the U.S. Department of Education and published in the October 19, 2007, Federal Register: <u>http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.pdf</u>. To understand how the two processes differ but relate to one another, see the Data Collection to Reporting Flowchart posted on the ISBE Web site: <u>http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/reporting_flowchart.pdf</u>.
13	Q: Can we assign two or more races?	Respondents may choose up to five races when answering the two-part question required for data collection.
14	Q: do you suggest parent signature if parent/guardian provides category or declines to report? Q: are we not calling students multiracial and instead two or more races?	Having parents sign the form is not required. However, you may choose to do this as a matter of local policy. You may also want to have the data collection form reflect any information supplied by observer identification because the parents declined to provide that information. The current Multiracial/Ethnic category used in Illinois and the new Two or More Races reporting category are not interchangeable.
15	Q: Is there any explanation on the difference between ethnicity and race?	Ethnicity refers to language and culture while race indicates geographical origin.
16	Q: Will the special education requirements for ISBE - FACTS be aligned to these requirements?	All data reported for the 2010-11 school year (and thereafter) must meet the new standards.
17	Q: will OCR reporting match these ethnicity categories?	All state and federal reporting must meet the new standards beginning with data reported for the 2010-11 school year
18	Q: Is this webinar available again?	At this time, no additional webinars are scheduled. However, the December 2009 webinar video is posted on the ISBE Web site at <u>http://www.isbe.net/research/default.htm</u>.
19	Q: What about secondary school students who have reached the age of majority in IL (18 years)? In this instance, should students self-identify rather than parents/guardians identifying for them?	If a student is 18 years of age or older, or emancipated, the student self-identifies. If the student declines to answer either the ethnicity or race question, school district personnel will respond by observer identification.