



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The U.S. Department of Education has instituted new guidelines regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students. The federal government will now require all states to report race and ethnicity using the new guidelines.

What are the new required guidelines?

The previous method of reporting required states to combine those who marked Asian or Pacific Islander into a single category called "Asian/Pacific Islander." The new reporting method separates this category into two distinct categories: "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander." In addition, there is a new category called "Two or more" that is intended to capture those who are multi-racial.

What does this mean for my child? (How will my child be counted and reported?)

The state of Hawai'i does not report individual information. The State reports total counts of students by different sub-group categories of race and ethnicity. On the new enrollment form there are three questions that are important. How you complete these sections will determine how the state will count the race and ethnicity of your child into the sub-groups that need to be reported to the federal government.

First, the enrollment form will ask: "Are you **(J)** Hispanic (Ex. Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Spanish, other Hispanic)?" Yes No

If you check **yes**, then your child will be counted and reported as Hispanic. If you check **yes**, you may continue to answer the race question that follows; **however**, for reporting purposes your child will only be counted as Hispanic.

Second, the enrollment form will ask for race information. You may check all that apply. The choices that will be on the form are listed below. If you select more than one race, then for reporting purposes your child will be counted as "Two or more" unless the multiple categories selected are races of the same origin (e.g., Chinese and Korean are of Asian origin and would be counted as such in the larger federal category of "Asian"; however, Chinese (Asian) and Samoan (Pacific Island) are not of the same origin and therefore would be counted as "Two or more.")

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A American Indian or Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> L White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Black | <input type="checkbox"/> N Indo-Chinese (Ex.Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> O Micronesian (Ex.Marshallese, Pohnpeian, Chuukese) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> P Tongan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E Native Hawaiian | <input type="checkbox"/> Q Guamanian/Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> R Other Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> S Other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Portuguese | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K Samoan | |

Third, the enrollment form will ask, "What is the student's *primary* race? (Select only ONE letter from either the Ethnicity or Race list and fill in the blank) _____.

If you have selected more than one race, then *primary* means the race with which you feel your child associates most. For example, if you identify your child as (C) Chinese and (E) Native Hawaiian, then with which of these do you consider your child to be primarily associated. If you feel, for example, that your child primarily associates with (E) Native Hawaiian, then you would put an "E" in the blank. Your child would then be counted and reported as Native Hawaiian to the U.S. Department of Education. If you do not complete this question about primary affiliation, then your child will be counted in the "Two or more" group. Given the harmful impact of these new guidelines on the demographic representation of indigenous populations such as Native Hawaiians, it is important for those of Native Hawaiian ancestry to note, if this question is left blank your child will NOT be counted as part of the Native Hawaiian sub-group when reporting to the federal government. If you do not complete this question about primary affiliation, then your child will be counted in the "Two or more" group. If you feel that your child primarily associates with (C) Chinese, then your child will be counted as "Two or more" for federal reporting. For state purposes, your child may be counted as (C) Chinese, (E) Native Hawaiian, Asian, or Pacific Islander depending on the purpose for a given count (e.g., research, program evaluation, grant writing, etc.).

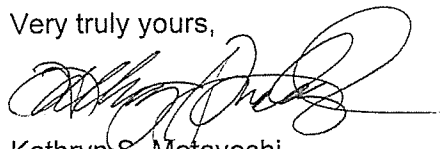
Do I have to provide ethnicity and race information?

Although you have the right as a parent to decline providing this information to the school, the federal guidelines require that every student be assigned an ethnicity and/or race category. The requirements allow schools to designate an ethnicity and/or race category in the event a parent declines to provide the information. On the new enrollment form you will see a check box with the statement "I decline to provide ethnicity and race information. I understand that if I do not provide this information, a school representative will designate the ethnicity and race categories for my child." You may check this box if you do not wish to provide the information.

If this box is checked, school personnel will make the determination as to your child's ethnicity and/or race. Also included on the new enrollment form is an item "Ethnicity/Race Observed: _____ Initial _____ Date." Whoever makes the observed determination for your child's ethnicity and/or race must initial and date the form.

Should you have any questions, please contact Cara Tanimura, Director, Systems Accountability Office at (808) 586-3283.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

KSM:LWV:sew