

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
SECTION C: STUDENTS**

<b>VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL ABORIGINAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT STUDENTS)</b>	<b>PROCEDURES</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> 2011 05 25 / 2016 05 24	

**REFERENCES**

- Implementation Plan Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework 2014.
- Building Bridges to Success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students – Developing Policies for Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification: Successful Practices for Ontario School Boards 2007.
- Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework
- Ontario First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan (PDF, 1.41 MB).

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

**1.0 Responsibility**

**1.1 The Director of Education will ensure that:**

- 1.1.1 Board improvement planning will target resources and supports in schools with high numbers of self-identified Aboriginal students and/or on the basis of individual schools' and students' strengths and needs.
- 1.1.2 Partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit parents, communities, and organizations are fostered to enhance the continued support of Aboriginal students.
- 1.1.3 The Board will continue to establish formalized processes such as the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory Committee to support local implementation of the Framework by developing relationships with their First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, sharing information, identifying promising practices, and enhancing collaborative work.
- 1.1.4 The Self-Identification Policy is communicated to the school communities and to the general public.
- 1.1.5 The Voluntary Self-Identification Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

**1.2 The Treasurer of the Board will ensure that:**

- 1.2.1 An opportunity is provided on Student Registration Forms and Student Data Verification Forms for families of Aboriginal heritage to voluntarily self-identify, or withdraw identification of students as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

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- 1.2.2 Aboriginal self-identification data is stored securely and released only for purposes related to assessing and supporting achievement and programming needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students.
- 1.2.3 Data collected for the purpose of this policy is reported in a timely manner to the Ministry of Education and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) through the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). The ministry may report publicly on Aboriginal student achievement at an aggregate level on such matters as enrolment, EQAO results and course completion however personally identifiable data would be protected unless otherwise required by law.
- 1.2.4 The privacy of personal information associated with the voluntary self-identification is collected and protected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).
- 1.2.5 School secretaries have appropriate resources and are provided training for the accurate collection of data for First Nations, Métis and Inuit voluntary self-identification process.

#### **1.3 School Administrators:**

- 1.3.1 Will ensure that all information pertaining to the Aboriginal Self-Identification process is available to all stakeholders
- 1.3.2 Will ensure that school secretaries are aware of and understand the First Nations, Métis and Inuit voluntary self-identification process.

#### **1.4 Parents and Students:**

- 1.4.1 Parents/guardians of students under the age of 18, and students 18 years of age and older will use the Student Registration Form or the Data Verification Form to voluntarily self-identify as a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit student. Voluntary self-identification applies to students with any degree of Aboriginal ancestry and no proof of ancestry is required.
- 1.4.2 Parents/guardians of students under the age of 18, and students 18 years of age and older will be able to withdraw the First Nations, Métis and Inuit identification or add the First Nations, Métis and Inuit identification at any time, upon written request to the principal or by updating the Student Data Verification Form.

#### **2.0 Additional Information**

- 2.1 Data gathered under this policy will be in accordance with the Education Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
- 2.2 The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to the principles of equity and inclusive education, consistent with our Catholic teachings, which value and promote human rights and social justice in all Board policies, programs, guidelines, operations and practices.