
DEFINITIONS

In keeping with the definition of Aboriginal peoples under the Constitution, all self-identification policies developed by school boards need to recognize and address the following four cohorts of Aboriginal students attending provincially funded schools in Ontario:

First Nation

1. **First Nation** students who live in First Nation communities but attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools under tuition agreements.
2. **First Nation** students who live in the jurisdictions of school boards and attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools.
3. **Métis** Students who attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools.
4. **Inuit** students who attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools.

** Definition from Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students (2007, page 9)

Registration Process

Students who are already attending a Bluewater School Board elementary or secondary school and wish to self-identify can do so by going to the office and updating their registration form that is on file. **New students** who are registering to attend a Bluewater School Board elementary or secondary school can have their First Nation, Métis or Inuit status recorded when the Student Registration form is being completed.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

Lori Wilder
Superintendent of Education
Bluewater District School Board
Box 190 - 351 First Avenue North,
Chesley, ON N0G 1L0
(519) 363-2014



Revised November 2014

Voluntary First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification Process

*“Preparing Our Students Today
for the World of Tomorrow”*



**Bluewater District
School Board**

WHY IS BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ASKING STUDENTS TO SELF-IDENTIFY?

Bluewater District School Board is committed to providing effective education to all of their students. It is working to meet the Ministry of Education's two primary challenges, as outlined in the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework, by the year 2016 - to improve achievement among FNMI students and to close the gap between FNMI and non-FNMI students in the areas of:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Retention of students in school
- Graduation rates
- Advancement to postsecondary studies

WHAT IS VOLUNTARY FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT SELF-IDENTIFICATION

This process provides an opportunity for those who are First Nation, Métis or Inuit to identify their ancestry to the Board. The information will be used to help determine and improve the achievements and outcomes of students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry. This process is by choice.



The Benefits

- Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities, events or student leadership opportunities specifically for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.
- Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including support staff designated to meet Aboriginal student needs.
- Communication between schools, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education staff, Aboriginal students and their families.

Who will have access to the data?

The data collected will be securely stored and will be used only by staff to determine programming and support for students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry.



The data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the **Freedom of Information and Privacy Act**. It will inform the Board if the strategies that have been implemented to support students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry are resulting in improved learning.



PROMOTING SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS OF FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT ANCESTRY

In keeping with the three provincial goals for education

1. Achieving Excellence;
2. Ensuring Equity; and
3. Promoting Well-Being

The Ministry of Education developed the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework, 2007* which outlines the strategies to be used to increase educational outcomes for students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/fnmiframework.pdf>

“The Ministry of Education will use data for self-identified Aboriginal students when monitoring and evaluating the impact of implementation activities”.

Implementation Plan Ontario FNMI Education Policy Framework, 2014, page 18.