

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education* regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff. The federal government, which requires all states to collect this information, has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories.

The federal government has developed these new categories in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. This will enable individuals to be identified in ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category when appropriate. In the past, guidelines allowed individuals to be identified in only one racial category.

The student data with the new ethnicity and race categories will be used in the same manner that such information is currently used. For example, the federal government and the state of Colorado use racial and ethnic data in reporting and analyzing aggregated test results, such as Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) scores, and aggregated student outcomes information, such as graduation rates or dropout rates. These reports help us track changes in student enrollments, performance, and outcomes and ensure that all students receive the educational programs and services to which they are entitled.

Please complete the questionnaire on the back and return it to your child's school by March 1, 2010. The race/ethnicity designation that is currently on file for your child has been provided for your convenience. Please note that the school district is required to provide an answer to this questionnaire on your behalf if you choose not to provide this information. The federal government believes that in getting aggregate numbers from states and districts, it would be preferable to have complete data this way, than to have missing data.

For more information about the student data reporting categories, please contact Dr. Lisa Leith at 970-613-5070.

Sincerely,

Thompson School District

* For more information please visit the Colorado Department of Education at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rvRace-Ethnicity.htm>

Current Designations

Part A - Hispanic/Latino? No, not Hispanic/Latino

Part B - Race Designation White

The Above Current Designations are Correct, No Changes are Necessary

If the above information is not correct please make changes to Part A and B below

Part A. Is this student Hispanic/Latino? (choose only one)

No, not Hispanic/Latino

Yes, Hispanic/Latino

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

The above part of the question is about ethnicity, not race. No matter what you selected in Part A above, please provide an answer to Part B by marking one or more boxes below to indicate what you consider your child's race to be.

Part B. Which of the following groups describe the student's race(s)? (choose one or more)

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.

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.

Black or African American

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____