


Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board



Section: Students

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE:
Pr ST: 25 Voluntary Indigenous
Self-Identification**

NUMBER:	Pr ST: 25
EFFECTIVE:	June 8, 2010
AMENDED:	Feb.25, 2020
RELATED POLICIES:	ST: 25
REPEALS:	
REVIEW DATE:	2025-2026

1.0 OBJECTIVE:

1.1 To establish procedure for the voluntary self-identification of Indigenous students.

2.0 PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board student registration forms will reflect the Indigenous Self-Identification fields in the collection of accurate data and the data entry system will correlate with the self-identification fields.
- 2.2 Communication material on the Voluntary Self-Identification Policy for Indigenous students will be developed, distributed to all currently registered families, provided to new registrants, and made available on the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board website.
- 2.3 Students attending a Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board elementary or secondary school will be able to self-identify by selecting the appropriate field on the Student Verification/Information Update Form. For students under 18 years of age, the Indigenous Self-Identification requires parent/guardian signature, unless the student is 16/17 and withdrawn from parental control.
- 2.4 New students registering in a Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board elementary or secondary school can acknowledge their Indigenous ancestry on the Student Registration Form and will be invited to self-identify at the time of registration.
- 2.5 Self-identification of Indigenous ancestry by parents/guardians, students 16/17 and withdrawn from parental control and students 18 years of age and older, shall be voluntary.
- 2.6 Self-identification shall include all Indigenous people, regardless of status.
- 2.7 Parents/guardians, students 16/17 and withdrawn from parental control and students 18 years of age and older shall be entitled to remove the identification at any time, upon written request to the Principal.
- 2.8 No proof of ancestry shall be required.

3.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.1 The dignity and well being of students shall be given the highest priority.
- 3.2 Data collected 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).
- 3.3 Individual data will be confidential to individuals in the school system who require such information for the provision of resources, services and experiences to benefit Indigenous students.
- 3.4 Aggregate data may be available to the school system, the Ministry, and the Indigenous communities.
- 3.5 Aggregate data may be reported publicly by the Education Quality and Accountability Office.
- 3.6 The data collected as a result of this policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and the aggregate results reported to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.
- 3.7 All data collected under this policy will be securely stored to respect student privacy and will be treated under the same rules and regulations that govern Ontario Student Records.

4.0 PURPOSES OF DATA COLLECTION

- 4.1 To assist schools in better understanding the demographics of their population.
- 4.2 To assist the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board in assessing which schools require additional programming, targeted initiatives, additional support, and the involvement of family and the greater community in the life of the school.
- 4.3 To identify Indigenous students who would benefit from additional support.
- 4.4 To improve achievement among Indigenous students, and to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in the areas of literacy and numeracy; retention of students in schools; graduation rates; and advancement to post-secondary pathways.

5.0 DATA EVALUATION

- 5.1 The procedure will be reviewed annually for its effectiveness.

- 5.2 The data collected as a result of the policy will be evaluated on an annual basis and the aggregate results reported to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, who in turn will report to the Board of Trustees.

- 5.3 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee will, in consultation with their local communities, recommend next steps for continuing to support their students in particular as well as promoting greater awareness of Indigenous culture and heritage in general.