



Aboriginal Student Self-Identification

The Ministry of Education has outlined their commitment to delivering quality education to Aboriginal students through the [Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#).

Acting on this priority, the Halton Catholic District School Board created an Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) to assist with the development of a school board policy that would outline a voluntary Aboriginal student self-identification process to support students and families of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.

In 2010, the Halton Catholic District School Board approved [Policy II-43, Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Students](#).

What is voluntary Aboriginal Student Self-identification?

Aboriginal Student Self-identification is a voluntary, confidential process that provides an opportunity for students and families to identify as having First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.

Who is eligible to self-identify?

- Any student of Aboriginal ancestry, who is 18 years of age or older, has the right to self-identify.
- For students under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must self-identify on behalf of their behalf.
- Self-identification is a personal choice, and no proof of ancestry is required.
- This process is **completely voluntary and confidential**.

NOTE: If you wish to self-identify, and are unsure if you have already done so, please contact your school directly.

Why should I self-identify?

The Halton Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring that we are meeting the academic needs of all students through appropriate programming and supports in our schools across the Board.

When you choose to self-identify as a First Nation, Métis or Inuit student, you will:

- Have access to a variety of Board and school-sponsored cultural programming



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- Receive information about funding support initiatives that are available for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students, specific to post-secondary programs (workplace, apprenticeships, college, university, or community living)

What will you do with my personal information?

The information we collect through the Aboriginal Student Self-identification process is kept confidential, accessible only to authorized Board personnel who require such information for the provision of resources, programming, or services that benefit individual First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.

The information will assist us to:

- Learn more about the Aboriginal population we serves
- Support and enhance the success of our Aboriginal students
- Advocate for funding from the Ministry of Education, which will provide the means to develop, and implement student success programs, and supports for Aboriginal students
- Improve school awareness about the diverse needs of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit learners
- Support Aboriginal students entering the workforce, and preparing for post-secondary studies

Self-identification data will be used as provided for by the Education Act, and as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs within the Board. The data will be used to better support student achievement, and well-being, and will offer pertinent information for the school improvement planning process. Additionally, this data will help to make future decisions about programs, research, and partnership opportunities.

Information gathered shall be used in the aggregate only, and for the purpose of developing, and implementing supportive programs. This information will be shared with the Ministry of Education, and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Overall aggregate results, including provincial test results, will be reviewed to better understand the academic achievement of Aboriginal students.

Can I withdraw my self-identification?

Yes. Upon written request at any time to the Principal of your school, you may remove your self-identification.



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Interested in learning more?

[First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#)

[The Council of Ministers of Education - Aboriginal Education Action Plan](#)

[Progress Report on Aboriginal Students](#)

[Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Students: Developing Policies for Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification, 2007](#)

[Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2007](#)

Contact Information

If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact your school Principal, or the Board's contact:

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