

FAQ ON NEW FEDERAL RACE AND ETHNICITY

The following are questions and answers regarding the US Department of Education race/ethnicity policy.

1. Why did the race collection change?

The US Dept of Education changed it’s guidance in December 2007 on the collection of racial and ethnic data to all programs reporting data to USDE. The guidelines specify both the new categories for individual level data and the aggregated categories to be used for racial and ethnic data reported to the USDE. For further detail on this guidance, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008802> to view a copy of the publication, “Managing an Identity Crisis Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories”.

2. When does this new policy go into affect?

For the state of Arkansas the new guidance will be implemented in the 2009/2010 school year. According to the guidance the USDE has a mandatory implement for all states to report in the 2010/2011 school year.

3. What are the current racial ethnic categories?

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black
- White
- Hispanic

These categories were used to comply with previous federal reporting guidelines. Each student/staff was identified by one and only one race category.

4. What are the definitions of the new race/ethnicity categories according to the federal guidelines?

The new categories are:

Ethnicity:

- Hispanic or Latino... A person of Cuban, Mexican Puerto Rican, South or Central American or Spanish culture regardless of race.
- Not Hispanic

Race:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native... A person having origins in any of the original people of North or South America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Asian... A person having origins in any of the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent including 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 group of Africa.
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander... A person having origins in any of the original people of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.
- White... A person having origins in any of the original people of Europe, the Middle East or North Africa.

Respondents should select one ethnicity code and one or more race codes. DDS Programs in MySped application will allow you to check all that apply with Y or N for each race/ethnicity. See example:

The screenshot shows a web application interface for 'SPECIAL EDUCATION'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Support', 'Finance', 'Personnel', 'Students', and 'Exit'. Below this, the screen title is 'SCREEN: New Race Demo' and the fiscal year is 'FISCAL YEAR: 2008/09'. The user's LEA is '9999 ADE - Special Education Unit'. The form contains several input fields: 'Last Name', 'First Name', 'Middle Name', 'SSN' (with a sample value '(123456789)'), 'State ID', and 'Resident LEA'. There are also radio button options for 'Race' (Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White) and 'Ethnicity' (Hispanic/Latino).

5. How will these data be reported to the USDE?

After the collection of data through APSCN and the MySped DDS Application, the racial data will be aggregated into 7 categories.

1. Hispanic*
2. American Indian/Alaskan Native
3. Asian
4. Black
5. Native Hawaii
6. White
7. 2 or more races**

*Any respondent who selected an ethnicity of Hispanic will go into the Hispanic category regardless whether another race was selected.

**Any respondent who selected multiple races and is not Hispanic will go into the 2 or more races category.

6. Can we leave children identified as they are currently?

Yes, even though it is recommended that all parents/guardians have the opportunity to re-identify their child's race/ethnicity, you can leave them as currently identified. However, any child currently identified as Asian/Pacific Islander will need to be re-identified since this category has been split.

Any new child to your program will need to be identified even if they are a transfer.

7. Will the data currently in the EC Module and DDS Application be converted to the new format?

The EC Module in APSCN and the DDS Application in MySped will be converted into the new fields after the June submissions.

8. Will the referral form change?

Yes, the six categories are being added to the referral form. The form will be promulgated this summer. In the mean time, use the attached form to record the race and ethnicity selection for referrals. The Referral Module will be changed to collect the new categories for 2009-10 school year.

RACE and ETHNICITY DATA COLLECTION FORM

In accordance with federal guidance, a two-part question must be used to collect data about student race and ethnicity. The first part of the question is on ethnicity and the second is on race. The race question can have multiple values.

Child's Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Race/Ethnicity Two-Part Question: Answer BOTH questions.

The order of the questions is important. The ethnicity question must be asked first, and both questions must be answered.

Part 1: Ethnicity **Is this student (or is the respondent) Hispanic or Latino? (Choose only one)**

- No, not Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, Hispanic or Latino (A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.)

Part 2: Race **What is the student's (or respondent's) race? (Regardless of how respondent answered the first question, choose one or more)**

- American Indian or Alaska Native (A person having origins in any of the original tribal peoples of North and South America, including Central America, and who maintains 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.)