



Policy Manual – Students

S.M.16 First Nations, Métis, Inuit Student Self-Identification

Policy Statement

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, in its Mission and Vision to enable all learners to realize the fullness of their humanity of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model, will provide all Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) students and their parents/guardians the opportunity to voluntarily and confidentially self-identify as a means of enhancing student achievement and well-being, program development, cross-cultural awareness and understanding, and public confidence.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support the Indigenous self-identification process in order to inform targeted strategies for increasing Indigenous student achievement, well-being and success.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the school principal or designate to share the self-identification process and supporting documentation with all students, preferably upon registration. The Board will also have the self-identification process available on its website.

In keeping with a First Nations, Métis, Inuit student's right to confidentiality, the student's records/data will be treated in the same manner and in accordance with the Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guidelines and the requirements of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The data/information will be used in the aggregate only and for the purpose of evaluating, developing and implementing supports.

Regulations

Aboriginal Peoples: The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America.

Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, states "In this Act, 'Aboriginal peoples of Canada' includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis people of Canada".

Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework – Aboriginal Education Office – Ministry of Education 2007"

Related Board Committee

Student Achievement and Well-Being

Equal Opportunities

Indigenous Education Committee

Policy Review Date:

BM Original Policy Approved 18 January 2011

Revisions: 06 May 2014, 01 March 2016, 19 November 2019, 10 March 2023

To be reviewed every five years- 2028