



SUDBURY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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BOARD REGULATION BR120

Voluntary Self-Identification for Aboriginal Students

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board to address the needs of Aboriginal students who experience gaps in their education by putting into place measures that respond to their particular needs. All Aboriginal students and their parents will be given the opportunity to voluntarily self-identify so that their academic needs may be better addressed. In its commitment to ensure these measures, the School Board will establish a self-identification procedure to identify, collect and aggregate student achievement data for Aboriginal students.

Definition: Aboriginal identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2), in that "Aboriginal peoples" include "Indian, Inuit and Métis".

RATIONALE

The learning aspirations and potentials of Aboriginal students can be realized through a responsive, transparent and accountable policy that focusses on improved educational programs and services and builds on strong partnerships with Aboriginal parents and their communities.

Voluntary self-identification allows the Board to collect and aggregate student achievement data to monitor the performance of Aboriginal students. Continued data collection and analysis will provide information for future decision-making, surrounding Aboriginal student success.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Self-identification data will be collected on currently enrolled students via Sudbury Catholic District School Board Student Update Forms, beginning the 2007 - 2008 school year.
2. Self-identification data will be collected on the Sudbury Catholic District School Board Registration Form for all new students enrolled with the Board beginning the 2007 - 2008 school year.

GUIDELINES

1. Voluntary self-identification will allow the Board to:
 - Provide high quality learning opportunities that are responsive, flexible, and accessible to Aboriginal students
 - Increase the retention rate of Aboriginal students
 - Increase the graduation rate of Aboriginal students
 - Ensure that Aboriginal students are well-prepared for participation in post-secondary studies and the world of work

BOARD REGULATION BR120

- Improve EQAO test scores for Aboriginal students
 - Continue to foster an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of Canada's Aboriginal People
 - Improve achievement among Aboriginal students and to reduce the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in (the areas of literacy and numeracy) student outcomes
 - Provide professional development activities focussed on the needs of Aboriginal students
 - Support teachers in adopting a variety of approaches and tools to teach and assess Aboriginal students more effectively
 - Promote effective, respectful working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal parents and the general Aboriginal community
2. All data will be securely stored to respect privacy and used only as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs within the Sudbury Catholic District School Board.
- (a) Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records (OSR) (highly confidential) and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.
- (b) Individual data will not be communicated. The information gathered will be used in aggregate only and for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive measures.
- (c) Aggregated data will be shared with stakeholders.
3. This policy will evolve as the Board seeks to improve achievement and program delivery for Aboriginal students. For implementation and for future refinement of this policy, the following principles will be used as a guide:

Implemented measures will be evaluated regularly based on their:

- Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation
- Learner - centredness
- Equity
- Responsiveness
- Collaboration
- Respect of individual privacy and dignity
- Results - oriented
- Acknowledgement and reflection of cultural diversity
- Contribution to the knowledge base through research

TIMELINE

The policy will be reviewed annually for its effectiveness and need for continuation, in collaboration with stakeholders.

<u>Monitoring:</u>	
Methods:	Internal Report
Frequency:	January
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Approval Date:	April 3, 2007
Effective Date:	April 3, 2007
Last Review Date:	April 3, 2007
Revised:	April 3, 2007
Signature of Chairperson of the Board:	_____
Signature of the Secretary of the Board:	_____