



<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>Student Management and Welfare</b>	<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>
<b>SUBSECTION:</b>	<b>Rights and Responsibilities of Students</b>	<b>May 4, 2009</b>
<b>POLICY NAME:</b>	<b>First Nations, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification</b>	<b>LAST REVISED:</b>
<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>	<b>R.SMW.D.1</b>	<b>May 4, 2009</b>

1. GENERAL

1.1 This policy operates in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Education Strategy and the Ontario First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Policy Framework 2007; The Constitution Act, 1982, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Métis Nation Resolution, 2002; the Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guidelines (Ministry of Education), Board Policies (Anti Racism and Ethno-cultural Equity) and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

1.2 The learning aspirations and potential of all students can be realized through a responsive, transparent and accountable policy that focuses on improved programs and services and builds on strong partnerships with parents, guardians and their communities. It is essential to understand the student population and have accurate student achievement data within the Wellington Catholic District School Board to improve success for all students. In accordance with the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Policy Framework, accurate student achievement data will be collected to assess progress towards the goals of improving Aboriginal student achievement and closing the gap in academic achievement between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Ongoing data collection and analysis provide information for planning and decision-making surrounding student success.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Aboriginal Identification

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

2.2 First Nations

First Nations peoples include both status and non-status peoples: status refers to peoples registered under the Indian Act, holding certain rights and benefits that are not available to non-status or Métis people.

2.3 Non-Status

Non-status refers to peoples who consider themselves persons of Aboriginal descent who do not meet the criteria of the Indian Act or who, despite meeting those criteria, have not been registered as a status Indian.

2.4 Métis

Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation. (Source: Métis Nation Resolution, 2002)

- 2.5 Inuit  
Inuit is a distinct group of Aboriginal people who have ancestral ties to Northern Canada (Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador). (Source: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)

3. GOALS

The Board has established the following goals for Aboriginal education:

- 3.1 Continue to set high expectations for learner achievement in supported learning environments;
- 3.2 Provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities that are responsive to the learner;
- 3.3 Improve EQAO assessment results for Aboriginal students;
- 3.4 Improve the retention and graduation rate of Aboriginal students;
- 3.5 Ensure that all Aboriginal learners are well prepared for post-secondary studies and the work world, and
- 3.6 Promote effective, respectful working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal parents, guardians and communities.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The implementation of this policy will be guided by the following principles:

- 4.1 transparency;
- 4.2 inclusion;
- 4.3 innovation;
- 4.4 learner-centeredness;
- 4.5 equity;
- 4.6 responsiveness;
- 4.7 collaboration;
- 4.8 Cat
- 4.9 respect for individual privacy and dignity;
- 4.10 results focused, and
- 4.11 acknowledgement and reflection of Catholicity and our cultural diversity.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification information in Wellington Catholic District School Board will be requested as of the 2008-2009 school year. (see Appendix #1- Voluntary Aboriginal Self Identification)
- 5.2 Self-identification data will be collected on Student Registration Forms for all new students enrolled in schools beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. (see Appendix #2- Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry)

6. SECURITY PROTOCOL

- 6.1 All data will be securely stored to respect the privacy of each Aboriginal student and used only as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs.
- 6.2 Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records (OSR) and protected and governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- 6.3 The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs, and ensuring the privacy of identified students.