

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Why is this change being made?

The federal government is requiring the change in response to increasing diversity within the United States. The change also reflects the 2010 U.S. Census question on race and ethnicity.

### When will the change occur?

The change is mandatory for the 2010-2011 school year. However, schools are encouraged to begin the transition during the 2009-2010 school year.

### How will this new data be used?

The Montana Office of Public Instruction will use the data for analysis and reporting purposes.

### Will this data be used for discrimination or to impact the immigrant status for students?

No, this data will be used only for educational reporting purposes and will not be used against any student.

### How will race and ethnicity data be reported?

Race and ethnicity data will be reported to the federal government in groups. It will never be reported on an individual level.

## DATA

### The data will be used to:

- Ensure students receive educational services to which they are entitled
- Analyze needs of students within the school community
- Obtain funding for educational services as appropriate

### The data will not be used to:

- Discriminate against any student
- Determine immigration status
- Penalize students, parents, or staff

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AIM Policy References Webpage

[http://opi.mt.gov/Reports-Data/AIM/#gpm1\\_8](http://opi.mt.gov/Reports-Data/AIM/#gpm1_8)

## Reporting Race and Ethnicity

### Information for Parents and Students



### Division of Measurement and Accountability



[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

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## INTRODUCTION

The race and ethnicity of students in Montana will be collected in a new way beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. The change matches alterations to race and ethnicity questions in the 2010 U.S. Census.

The change to the reporting of race and ethnicity in educational data has been made to better reflect the country's growing diversity. The change will require all new students to be identified using a new two-part race and ethnicity question. The federal government has established the two-part question to identify Hispanic ethnicity and race as two separate and distinct concepts. Additionally, the change allows the reporting of multiple races (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White).

## AS A PARENT

Parents/guardians are encouraged to answer the race and ethnicity questions for their children when filling out enrollment forms.

State law (20-9-330, MCA) prohibits a school district from requiring parents/guardians to disclose their child's race/ethnicity. However, the US Educational Department requires a K-12 school to report each student's race and ethnicity information. Therefore, if the parents/guardians refuse to report the race and ethnicity of their child, a school observer will identify the race and ethnicity of the student. For accuracy and data consistency, parents/guardians are highly encouraged to answer these two questions.

## ETHNICITY QUESTION

Is the individual Hispanic or Latino?

(Choose only one)

— No, not Hispanic/Latino

— Yes, Hispanic/Latino

## RACE QUESTION

What is the individual's race?

(Choose one or more races below)

— American Indian or Alaska Native

— Asian

— Black or African American

— Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

— White

## RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

**Ethnicity:** The heritage, national group, lineage, or country of birth of the person, or the person's parents or ancestors.

- **Hispanic/Latino:** a person of Cuban, Dominican, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, Spanish, or other Hispanic culture or origin, regardless of race.

**Race:** Identification according to the race or races with which a person most closely identifies. These categories are sociopolitical constructs and should not be interpreted as



being scientific or anthropological in nature. Furthermore, the race categories include both racial and national-origin groups (U.S. Census Bureau).

- **American Indian or Alaska Native:** a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintain tribal 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.

More information can be found at:  
[www.opi.mt.gov/AIM/REChanges.html](http://www.opi.mt.gov/AIM/REChanges.html)



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