



Policy Section: **School Administration**

300

Policy Name: **Voluntary and Confidential Self-Identification for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students**

315

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to provide programs as a way to help First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who experience gaps in their education by putting into place measures that respond to particular needs. All First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and their parents have the right to voluntarily self-identify so that they may receive supportive programming and instructional practices that better serve the First Nations, Métis and Inuit learner. The first such measure in recognizing this right is to establish self-identification procedures to identify, collect and aggregate student achievement data for First Nations, Métis and Inuit 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”.
- The identification used by the KPDSB will disaggregate for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Rationale

The learning aspirations and potentials of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students can be realized through a responsive, transparent and accountable policy that focuses on improved programs and services and builds on strong partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and their communities. Student achievement data needs to be collected and aggregated related to the performance of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. This is to determine whether programs currently delivered offer similar opportunities for success as for other students. Continued data collection and analysis will provide information for future decision-making surrounding First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success.

Framework Goals

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board has established the following goals for First Nations, Métis and Inuit education within its jurisdiction:

- To provide high quality learning opportunities that are responsive, flexible, and accessible to the learner
- To continue to set high expectations for learner achievement in supported learning environments

Cross References:	
Policies: 318, Freedom of Information & Protection of Individual Privacy 502, Indigenous Education Advisory Council	Date Adopted: December 14, 2004 Dates Reviewed: Mar 7/06; Dec 11/07; Nov 11/08; Jan 10/12; Dates Revised: Feb 10/15.
Procedure: 315, Voluntary & Confidential Self-Identification for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students	Review by: 2019

- To improve the retention rate of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students
- To increase the graduation rates of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students
- To increase the number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students reaching the honour roll or high levels of academic excellence
- To ensure that learners are well-prepared for participation in post-secondary studies and the world of work
- To promote effective, respectful working relationships and partnerships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and the general First Nations, Métis and Inuit community
- To promote and improve success of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit whole child, including children's mental, physical, emotional, and social health.

Guiding Principles

This policy will evolve as the board seeks to improve achievement and program delivery for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. For implementation and for future refinement of this policy, the following principles will continue to guide us:

- Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation
- Learner-centered
- Equitable
- Responsive
- Collaborative
- Respectful of individual privacy and dignity
- Be results-oriented
- Acknowledge and reflect cultural diversity
- Contribute to the knowledge base through research

Further, the KPDSB data collection system will monitor and evaluate potential discrimination, identify and remove systemic barriers, and ameliorate or prevent disadvantage for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

Security Protocol

- All data will be securely stored to respect privacy and used only as a means to enhance First Nations, Métis and Inuit education programs within the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board.
- Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.
- Individual data will not be communicated. The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and only for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.
- Where numbers are small enough so that individual information may be revealed no such information will be communicated. That number is set at 15 or less students.



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315

Communication

- The KPDSB will seek appropriate mechanisms to communicate information to the broader public as to the uses of the data and the achievement progress of students.
- Information will be communicated to EQAO and the Ministry of Education for reporting purposes of the province. Information given for this purpose will be protected by the protocols as outlined in Section 8.1 of the Education Act for EQAO & the Ministry of Education.

Evaluation

- The data collected as a result of this policy will be evaluated on an annual basis and the results reported to the Board and to the Native Education Advisory Council.