



Aboriginal Education Directorate
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Manitoba Education and Training

November 2016

**To: Superintendents of Education
Principals of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Schools**

RE: Directive for September 2017 Aboriginal Identity Declaration (AID) Information Collection in the Education Information System (EIS) –

I am writing to thank you for your continued support in the collection of AID information in your school division and advise you that effective September 2017 Manitoba Education and Training **mandates that all school divisions/schools incorporate the Aboriginal Identity Declaration (AID) collection form *within* the school registration/verification package (long form) rather than including the AID form separately with the school registration forms.** The Department recognizes that this is current practice for a number of school divisions and schools who are already in compliance with this directive. This change will help to strengthen the importance (and uptake) of parents and guardians declaring their children's Aboriginal identity and ensure that the approach to collection is identical across all Manitoba schools.

When incorporating the AID collection within the school long registration form it is vital that the following items appear:

1. Authorization and Statement of Understanding - *Aboriginal Identity Declaration helps to support the efforts of Manitoba Education and Training and school divisions to plan and improve programs in a way that is responsive to Aboriginal learners. (Providing this personal information is voluntary and optional. It is being collected in compliance with section 36(1)(b) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it is necessary for and relates directly to the activity of Manitoba and school divisions to plan, deliver and improve programs.)*
2. Annual Declaration - all new and continuing students are to be given an opportunity to declare their identity annually. The form should also include an opportunity for parents to indicate if they are declaring their child for the first time, whether they want to alter a child's previously declared identity, or whether they are merely confirming that a previous declaration has been made.

I _____, (name of parent/guardian, please print clearly):

- Am submitting my child's Aboriginal Identity Declaration for the first time
- Am making changes to my child's Aboriginal Identity Declaration
- Already submitted my child's Aboriginal Identity Declaration and have no further changes to make at this time.

3. Harmonization of Aboriginal Self-Identification - In order to have pan-Canadian data about Aboriginal students, provinces and territories have agreed to adopt a harmonized approach to Aboriginal self-identification. Therefore, this question should be worded **precisely** as follows:

Is your child an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nation (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuk (Inuit)?

Note: First Nations (North American Indian) include Status and Non-Status Indians

If “Yes”, mark the square(s) that best describe(s) your child now:

- Yes, First Nation (North American Indian)
- Yes, Métis
- Yes, Inuk (Inuit)

4. Linguistic and cultural groups – there are seven cultural/linguistic groups to choose from. Respondents may indicate up to two choices.

Which best describes your child’s Aboriginal cultural-linguistic identity? Please select up to two choices:

- Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux)
- Ininiw
- Dene (Sayisi)
- Dakota
- Oji-Cree
- Michif
- Inuktitut
- Other-please specify: _____

The Aboriginal Education Directorate will continue to support the implementation of AID online at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/abidentity.html>. School Divisions and Schools are encouraged to create a link to this information on their websites.

Thank you once again for your collaborative efforts on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Helen Robinson-Settee

cc. Bramwell Strain, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education and Training