

**THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE**

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE:

**First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Student
Voluntary Self-Identification**

SECTION/CODE:

School Operations D – 3

APPROVAL DATE:

December 4, 2023

SUPERSEDES:

January 13, 2020

NUMBER OF PAGES:

Page 1 of 4

REVIEW DATE:

December 2027

POLICY STATEMENT

The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene is committed to providing opportunities that reflect the learning aspirations and potential of students who have First Nation, Métis, and/or Inuit (FMNI) ancestry. This Policy outlines a voluntary, transparent self-identification process that confidentially collects and maintains aggregate student data. The data provides information to support future decision-making to support the success of FMNI students.

All parents/guardians of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students who are under 18 years of age have the right to voluntarily self-identify.

POLICY PURPOSE

It is the policy of The Protestant Separate School Board of the Town of Penetanguishene to provide the opportunity for parents/guardians to identify their children as having First Nation, Métis, and/or Inuit ancestry.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

FIRST NATION

Peoples, excluding Inuit, whose ancestors used and occupied traditional territories before contact with Europeans:

- ▶ status on and off reserve
- ▶ non-status on and off reserve.

MÉTIS

A person, who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

INUIT

An original people of the land now known as Canada, the people and culture known throughout the world as Inuit have occupied the vast territory stretching from the shores of the Chukchi Peninsula of Russia, east across Alaska and Canada, to the south-eastern coast of Greenland.

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VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Opportunities provided to students and parents to safely and securely specify First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.

AGGREGATE

Aggregate information is information in summary or statistical form which does not contain data that would permit the identification of a specific individual.

ONTARIO STUDENT RECORD (OSR)

The Ontario Student Record is the official school record for a student registered in a school in Ontario. Every publicly funded Ontario school keeps an OSR for each student enrolled at that school. The OSR contains achievement results, report cards, credits earned, and other information important to the education of the student. These records are protected by the Education Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The Education Act also regulates access to an OSR and states that the OSR is “privileged for the information and use of the Supervisory Officer and the Principal and teachers of the school for the improvement of instruction” of the student. Each student and the parents/guardians of a student must be made aware of the purpose and content of, and have access to, all of the information contained in the OSR.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board shall provide safe and confidential opportunities for self-identification respecting individual and collective privacy and dignity.
2. The Board shall ensure full transparency to inform parents how and why this information is being collected.
3. The Board shall provide opportunities for review of the self-identification policy in collaboration with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students and parents/guardians.
4. The Board shall encourage all trustees, staff, and students to grow in their own knowledge, understanding of, and respect for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples, their histories, cultures, values, and contributions.

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Page 3 of 4

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. The Board will protect the access, storage, and use of data of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit student information obtained in compliance with the Ministry of Education Ontario Student Record Guidelines, and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
2. The Board will collect this data, and will securely store it centrally. Only aggregate information will be analyzed, reported, and stored for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.
3. First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Voluntary Self-Identification hard copy information will be retained until it is entered into the Board computer system. Forms where this information is obtained will be confidentially destroyed after input into the Board computer system. The appropriate input personnel, the Supervisory Officer, and Ministry of Education will have access to this data.
4. The Board will make information pertaining to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Voluntary Self-Identification available to all families.
5. The principal or designate will ensure the distribution of relevant communication material, such as Board brochures, student registration packages, and school newsletters when applicable.
6. The principal or designate will ensure the secure forwarding of Voluntary Self-Identification information to the appropriate input personnel.
7. The Board will provide a secure mechanism for parents to withdraw Voluntary Self-Identification information.
8. The Board will review the effectiveness of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Student Voluntary Self-Identification policy implementation.
9. The Board will provide quality learning opportunities and resources that are respectful, responsive, flexible, and accessible to all.

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REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS

[Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework, January 2007](#)

[Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students, Ministry of Education, 2007](#)

[Education Act -Ontario Student Record Guideline](#)

[Indian Act](#)

[Personal Information Privacy of Electronic Documents Act](#)

[The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)

[Human Rights Act of Ontario](#)

Ontario Human Rights Commission: Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed (2015)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015)