

**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
SECTION 3: STUDENTS**

VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL ABORIGINAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT STUDENTS)	POLICY 3.24
EFFECTIVE: 2011 05 25	

Policy Statement:

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to providing a positive Catholic environment, which enhances the dignity and learning of all members of its educational community.

Policy Goals:

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board will offer to all Aboriginal students and/or their parents/guardians, the opportunity to voluntarily self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit students, whether they live on or off a reserve. To this end, the learning, aspirations and potential of Aboriginal students can be realized through the following:

1. A responsive, transparent and accountable process, which focuses on improving services and supports and builds on strong partnerships with Aboriginal parents and their communities.
2. The collection and analysis of student achievement data, which will be used to provide information about the effectiveness of programs and supports, provided a sufficient number of students have self-identified, to meet a minimum threshold for a valid, statistically significant sample of data.

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1.0 Responsibility

- 1.1 Planning Services will ensure that an opportunity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students to voluntarily self-identify, and to withdraw identification, is provided on all registration and Student Data Verification forms.
- 1.2 Planning Services will ensure that up to date Aboriginal Self-Identification data is stored confidentially and reported to the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS).
- 1.3 Planning Services and school administrators will ensure that school secretaries are aware of and understand the FNMI voluntary self-identification process.
- 1.4 School administrators will ensure that all information pertaining to the Aboriginal Self-Identification process is available to all stakeholders.

2.0 Expectations

- 2.1 The St. Clair Catholic District School Board will include a section on all registration forms and Student Data Verification forms, which provides an opportunity for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit parents/guardians, or FNMI students age 18 or older, to voluntarily self-identify.
- 2.2 Voluntary self-identification applies to students with any degree of Aboriginal ancestry and no proof of ancestry is required.
- 2.3 Parents/guardians and students 18 years of age and older will be able to withdraw the identification or add the identification at any time, upon written request to the principal or by updating the Student Data Verification form.
- 2.4 Students, who have not voluntarily self-identified, will not be included in the data collection.
- 2.5 Data will be used for the purpose of analysis and for the potential enhancement of program delivery within the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.
- 2.6 The data collected as a result of this policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and the results reported annually to the Board, provided a sufficient number of students have self-identified to meet a minimum threshold for a valid, statistically significant sample of data.
- 2.7 All information will be securely stored to respect privacy.

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- 2.8 Information gathered may be used in the aggregate by and reported to the Ministry of Education through OnSIS, where it will be depersonalized for the purpose of planning strategies and programs, to better support FNMI student achievement.

3.0 Additional Information

- 3.1 Data gathered under this policy will be in accordance with the Education Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
- 3.2 The St. Clair Catholic District School Board is committed to the principles of equity and inclusive education, consistent with our Catholic teachings, which value and promote human rights and social justice in all Board policies, programs, guidelines, operations and practices.