

STANDING PROUD

A VOLUNTARY, CONFIDENTIAL, ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION AND AFFIRMATION PLAN



WHERE WILL THIS INFORMATION GO?

Information about individual students is private and confidential within the School District. Overall results, including provincial test results, will be looked at to see if there have been improvements for Aboriginal students.

WHEN WILL THIS POLICY COME INTO EFFECT?

Gradually, beginning February, 2009, after this plan becomes local district policy.

ARE OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS DOING THIS?

Yes. All Ontario school districts were invited to develop policies in the next year or so; many school districts already have them. School Districts in other provinces have already shown improvement for Aboriginal students after similar policies were put in place.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS POLICY?

Ministry documents available at:

www.edu.gov.on.ca

Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework: Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students

or contact:



Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board

Joanne Fisher, 613-354-6257, Ext. 479
or toll free at 1-800-581-1116



Limestone District School Board

Norah Marsh, 613-544-6925, Ext. 229
or toll free at 1-800-267-0935



Algonquin and Lakeshore
Catholic District School Board



Limestone District
School Board

PROUD TO BE ABORIGINAL!

ABORIGINAL STUDENT SUCCESS NOW... AND IN FURTHER STUDIES AND FUTURE CAREERS!

WHAT IS THIS PLAN?

School Districts throughout Ontario are inviting Aboriginal students and their families to tell them, voluntarily and confidentially, if they are of Aboriginal descent. This is part of a larger, long-term initiative to improve understanding of Aboriginal histories, cultures, and perspectives by all members of school communities.

WHOM IS THIS FOR?

- elementary and secondary students and their families;
- anyone who wishes to self-identify as having any degree of Aboriginal ancestry;
- First Nation, Métis, Inuit or mixed Aboriginal ancestry students.

HOW WAS THE PLAN MADE?

School Districts wrote this plan, in consultation with the Aboriginal Education Office, after talking to many people, including:

- individuals in local Aboriginal communities and organizations;
- Aboriginal teachers;
- staff;
- other school boards.

WHAT DO SCHOOL DISTRICTS BELIEVE?

School Districts must:

- develop an ongoing relationship of trust and respect with Aboriginal communities, including students and parents;
- ensure the rights of Aboriginal students;
- understand how to meet the needs of Aboriginal students, especially through consultation with the Aboriginal communities and parents;
- create school communities where all people respect and value diverse Aboriginal histories, cultures, and perspectives.

WHAT WILL BE THE BENEFITS OF REVEALING ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY?

School Districts, with direction and support from the Ministry of Education, want improved learning for all students across the province.

Revealing Aboriginal ancestry means:

- schools become better informed about diverse Aboriginal students' needs;
- identification of schools in need of additional Aboriginal programming;
- more help, for Aboriginal students who need it, in reading, writing, and careers.

School Districts want:

- more Aboriginal students succeeding and staying in school;
- more Aboriginal students graduating and successfully entering the workforce or post-secondary studies.

HOW WILL ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AND THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY BENEFIT?

There will be:

- more curriculum content which addresses and celebrates Aboriginal peoples' histories, cultures, and perspectives;
- an increase in what teachers and other staff know about Aboriginal peoples' histories, cultures, and perspectives.

HOW WILL STUDENTS SELF-IDENTIFY?

Parents/guardians or 18 year-old students will fill out Information or Registration Forms. The parent/guardian or 18-year old student will be asked to check off if the student is of Aboriginal ancestry. It will look like the sample below.

- My child is/I am of Aboriginal ancestry

Indicate the People or Peoples related to your ancestral origin.
If of mixed ancestry, check off all that apply:

- First Nation _____ (identify)
- Metis
- Inuit