

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS WITH **FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT ANCESTRY**

Core Beliefs

- We believe that all students can be successful.
- We believe that by honouring the rich histories, languages and cultures of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit people, we will foster safe and inclusive learning environments for all.
- We believe that by meeting our First Nation, Métis and Inuit students' spiritual, emotional, physical and mental needs, and by affirming pride in cultural identity, all students will reach their full potential.

York Region District School Board First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Steering Committee

Voluntary and Confidential

- Self-identification is a personal choice.
- You do not need to show proof of your ancestry.
- The information will be securely stored and used only by staff to determine programming and support for students.
- Personal information is collected pursuant to the Ontario Ministry of Education First Nation, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework and will be used to expand supports for students.
- Information will be treated the same as Ontario Student Records and is protected and governed by the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Data may be used by the Ministry of Education and Education Quality and Accountability Office for enrolment, achievement results and course completion. Student privacy will be maintained. Personal information will not be shared publicly.

Vision

First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in Ontario will have the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to successfully complete their elementary and secondary education in order to pursue postsecondary education or training and/or to enter the workforce. They will have the traditional and contemporary knowledge, skills and attitudes required to be socially contributive, politically active, and economically prosperous citizens of the world. All students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions, cultures and perspectives.



SELF IDENTIFICATION

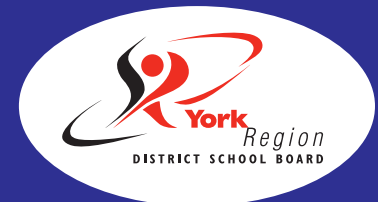
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ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. Section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, states: "In this Act, 'Aboriginal peoples of Canada' includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada." These separate groups have unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. Their common link is their indigenous ancestry. At times, 'Aboriginal' and 'First Nation, Métis and Inuit' are used synonymously.

INUIT

- Aboriginal people in northern Canada, living mainly in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador. Ontario has a very small Inuit population.

FIRST NATION

- A term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian", which many found offensive. The term "First Nation" has been adopted to replace the word "band" in the names of communities.

MÉTIS

- People of mixed First Nation and European ancestry. The Métis history and culture draws on diverse ancestral origins, such as Scottish, Irish, French, Ojibwe and Cree.

(Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Framework, 2007)

SELF-IDENTIFICATION

STUDENTS OF FIRST NATION, MÉTIS
OR INUIT ANCESTRY CAN IDENTIFY
THEIR ANCESTRY TO THE
SCHOOL BOARD.

THE BENEFITS

For students

- Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities, such as conferences, events or student leadership opportunities specifically for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.
- Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including support staff designated to meet Aboriginal student needs.
- Communication between schools, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education staff, Aboriginal students and their families.
- Connections to post-secondary institutions, community groups, service providers and other partners.

For school communities

- More learning opportunities for all members of the school community to develop a greater understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and histories.
- Schools are better informed about students' needs.
- Schools that need additional Aboriginal programming can be identified.
- York Region District School Board staff are better able to determine if strategies to support students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry are successful.

HOW TO SELF-IDENTIFY

Students with any degree of aboriginal ancestry are able to self-identify. Students under the age of 18 require parental approval.

No proof of ancestry required.

CURRENT STUDENT: Complete a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification form and submit it to the school principal. This form is available from the school.

NEW STUDENT: Indicate First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry on the school registration form.

School administrators are available to support you.

Please contact your school office if you have any questions.

