



## Administrative Procedures Memorandum

### APC 039

### Voluntary, Confidential, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification Policy

**REVISED:** September 2015

**MEMO TO:** All Staff

**FROM:** Director of Education

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#### **PURPOSE**

It is the policy of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) to provide the opportunity for all First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students and their parents to voluntarily and confidentially self-identify so that supportive programming can be provided.

The WCDSB embraces a vision of Catholic Education, which proclaims:

**“Our Catholic Schools: Heart of the community ~ success for each and a place for all.”**

In order to fulfill this vision, the mission of the WCDSB is:

**“As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their potential to transform God’s world.”**

#### **FORMS**

n/a

#### **APPENDICES**

n/a

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Aboriginal identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2), in that “*Aboriginal Peoples*” include Indian, Métis and Inuit.”

First Nation: Canada’s original peoples whose history is interwoven with the creation of 1876 Indian Act, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and subsequent registry system. The term “*First Nation*” has

been adopted to replace the word “band” in the names of communities.

Status: people registered under the Indian Act who identify with a First Nation community/ancestral land.

Non-Status: people who identify with a First Nation community/ancestral land but are not registered under the INAC registry system.

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.

Inuit: means ‘the people’ in Inuktitut and generally refers to Canada’s original people whose homeland is northern Canada, living mainly in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Labrador.

## **FIRST NATION, METIS, AND INUIT SELF-IDENTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to providing programs and putting in place measures that respond to the needs of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students. All First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students and their parents have the right to voluntarily, and confidentially, self-identify.

1. Voluntary, Confidential, Self-Identification of First Nation, Métis or Inuit students may be declared by;
  - Parents/guardians of students under the age of 18;
  - Students 18 years of age and older;
  - Students who are 16 or 17 years of age and are withdrawn from parental control.
  - Voluntary self-identification shall include all First Nation, Métis or Inuit people, regardless of status.
  - No proof of ancestry shall be required.
2. Parents/guardians of students currently registered within Waterloo Catholic District School Board may voluntarily acknowledge their child’s First Nation, Metis, or Inuit ancestry on the Student Data Verification Form or a form created for self-identification purposes.
3. Parents/guardians of new students currently registering within Waterloo Catholic District School Board may voluntarily acknowledge their child’s First Nation, Metis, or Inuit ancestry on the Student Registration Form and will be invited to self-identify at time of registration.
4. First Nation, Metis, and Inuit education programs developed will build capacity to:
  - Improve EQAO assessment results for First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students
  - Increase the retention rate/ graduation rate of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students
  - Ensure that First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students are well prepared for post-secondary studies and the work world
  - Promote respectful working relationships and partnerships with First Nation, Metis, and Inuit parents and the general Aboriginal community.
5. Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.

6. The Administrative Procedure Memorandum will continue to evolve as the board seeks to improve achievement and program delivery for our First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students. In the implementation and refinement of this policy the following principals will guide us:

- Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation
- Learner-centered
- Equitable
- Responsive
- Collaborative
- Respectful of individual privacy and dignity
- Results-oriented
- Acknowledge and reflect cultural diversity
- Contribute to the knowledge base through research

## **REFERENCES**

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

*Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* (Ministry of Education, 2007)

*Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy* (Ministry of Education, 2009)

APC037: Equity and Inclusive Education Policy

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)

Mission and Vision (WCDSB, 2010)

## **EVALUATION**

The aggregate data collected as a result of this policy will be analyzed on an annual basis. The results will be reported to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and to the Board.