



Student Ethnicity and Race: Data Collection and Reporting

Changes to district procedures beginning with the 2009–10 school year

Following new federal guidelines, the district changed the way it collected and reported student ethnicity and race data in 2009–10. These changes are summarized in this informational brief.

Data Collection

The enrollment form is the district’s primary data collection tool for student demographic information, including ethnicity and race. In the past, students and their families were asked to select a single race/ethnicity designation and had the option of declaring a second one. See Exhibit 1.

<p>9. Ethnicity (check one): PROVIDE ONLY UPON FIRST ENROLLMENT IN DISTRICT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> White (not Portuguese) <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian (not Hmong)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese <input type="checkbox"/> Laotian (not Hmong) <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Am Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian Native <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p>10. Additional ethnicity write-in (optional):</p>
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Exhibit 1. (OLD) Race/ethnicity questions on the student enrollment form before 2009–10

New federal guidelines require the district to ask a two-part question on ethnicity and race. The first question asks whether a student is Hispanic/Latino. The second question asks for at least one applicable race group, independent of the response to the Hispanic/Latino question. See Exhibit 2.

<p>9. Is student Hispanic or Latino?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>10. Race (select one or more):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laotian <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Tahitian <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan</p>
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Exhibit 2. (NEW) Race/ethnicity questions on the student enrollment form beginning 2009–10

Under the new guidelines, *Hispanic/Latino is an ethnicity; all other groups are considered races*. Re-identification of current students is encouraged but not required. In fall 2009, the district sent pre-filled enrollment forms home to parents/guardians asking them to verify and, if necessary, update their student’s information. This provided parents/guardians the opportunity to re-identify their student’s race/ethnicity, although not all took advantage of this.

Data Reporting

For reporting race/ethnicity information, data collected from the enrollment forms are combined into various categories depending on the purpose. The district frequently uses one of three race/ethnicity category sets, all of which changed with the new guidelines. See Table 1.

Table 1. Category sets for student race/ethnicity reporting

Internal District Reports		State Reports		Federal Reports	
Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
1 African American	1 African American	1 African American	1 African American	1 Am. Indian/Alaska Native	1 Am. Indian/Alaska Native
2 Asian	2 Asian	2 Am. Indian/Alaska Native	2 Am. Indian/Alaska Native	2 Asian or Pacific Islander	2 Asian
3 Filipino	3 Filipino	3 Asian	3 Asian	3 Black or African American	3 Black or African American
4 Hispanic	4 Hispanic	4 Filipino	4 Filipino	4 Hispanic or Latino	4 Hispanic or Latino
5 Indochinese	5 Indochinese	5 Hispanic or Latino	5 Hispanic or Latino	5 White	5 Pacific Islander
6 Native American	6 Native American	6 Pacific Islander	6 Pacific Islander		6 White
7 Pacific Islander	7 Pacific Islander	7 White	7 White		7 Two or more races
8 White	8 White		8 Two or more races		
	9 Multiracial				

Notes on the new reporting categories:

- A student who is Hispanic/Latino, regardless of the selected racial group(s), is reported as Hispanic/Latino.
- A student without ethnicity and race information is reported as multiracial. Federal guidelines allow for “observer identification” for those with missing information, but state and district procedures do not.
- A student who is *not* Hispanic/Latino and has selected multiple racial groups is reported as multiracial if the selected races fall under two or more of the reporting categories. See Table 2.

Table 2. Examples of race/ethnicity reporting under the new guidelines

	Student Ethnicity and Race Data				Reporting Category		
	Hispanic/Latino?	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	District	State	Federal
1	yes	--	--	--	Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino
2	yes	African Am	--	--	Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino
3	no	Japanese	--	--	Asian	Asian	Asian
4	no	Japanese	White	--	Multiracial	Two or more races	Two or more races
5	no	Japanese	Korean	Chinese	Asian	Asian	Asian
6	no	Japanese	Filipino	--	Multiracial	Two or more races	Asian
7	no	Japanese	Cambodian	--	Multiracial	Asian	Asian
8	no	Vietnamese	Cambodian	--	Indochinese	Asian	Asian
9	no	Filipino	--	--	Filipino	Filipino	Asian
10	--	--	--	--	Multiracial	Two or more races	Two or more races

Race/Ethnicity Data Under the New and Old Guidelines

Figures 1 and 2 show the ethnicity and race breakdown for the district’s K–12 enrollment in fall 2008 (old guidelines) and fall 2009 (new guidelines). The new multiracial category in fall 2009 accounts for 3.2 percent of enrollment.

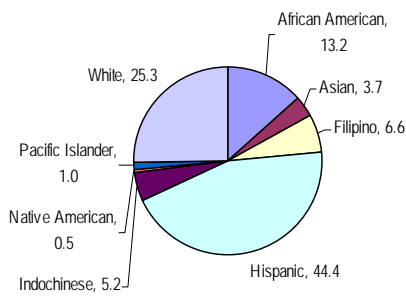


Figure 1. Fall 2008 K–12 enrollment (n=132,256)

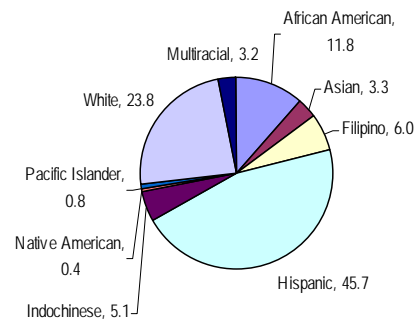


Figure 2. Fall 2009 K–12 enrollment (n=131,446)

Table 3 looks at students enrolled in both fall 2008 and 2009 (n=109,350)—the group of students common to both enrollment sets—and shows the difference in race/ethnicity counts and percentages between the old and new guidelines. It clearly shows the impact of a multiracial category and reporting all Hispanic/Latino students as Hispanic/Latino regardless of their race selection(s). Hispanic, White and African American students experienced the largest change both in count and absolute percentage. Not surprisingly, smaller groups—Native American, Pacific Islander, Asian—experienced the largest relative drops in membership. The full impact of the new guidelines will not be felt for another dozen years when all district students and their families will have initially identified their race/ethnicity using the federally prescribed two-part question.

Table 3. Race/ethnicity breakdown of district K–12 students enrolled in both fall 2008 and fall 2009

Race/Ethnicity	Old Guidelines		New Guidelines		Difference		
	Count	Pct	Count	Pct	Count	Overall Pct (Absolute)	Group Pct (Relative)
African American	13,713	12.5	12,521	11.5	(1,192)	(1.1)	(8.7)
Asian	3,981	3.6	3,408	3.1	(573)	(0.5)	(14.4)
Filipino	7,379	6.7	6,718	6.1	(661)	(0.6)	(9.0)
Hispanic	49,248	45.0	50,758	46.4	1,510	1.4	3.1
Indochinese	6,053	5.5	5,867	5.4	(186)	(0.2)	(3.1)
Native American	541	0.5	403	0.4	(138)	(0.1)	(25.5)
Pacific Islander	1,087	1.0	888	0.8	(199)	(0.2)	(18.3)
White	27,348	25.0	25,624	23.4	(1,724)	(1.6)	(6.3)
Multiracial	--	--	3,163	2.9	3,163	2.9	--
TOTAL	109,350	100.0	109,350	100.0			

For additional information

U.S. Department of Education (US DOE)

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/index.html>

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008802.pdf>

California Department of Education (CDE)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/documents/raceethnicity08.pdf>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sp/cl/documents/raceethnicity08a1.pdf>