

Questions and Answers for the New Federal Guidelines for Reporting Ethnicity and Race Data for NSSRS (Nebraska Student and Staff Record System).

Overview

The U.S. Department of Education requires all states to collect information on the race and ethnicity of public school students and staff. The federal government has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories. The changes should provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. Beginning in the fall of 2009, families of all students will be asked to fill out a brief form to update the reporting of their children's ethnicity and race. Reporting of staff data will occur at a different date.

If I have already provided this information to the school system, why must I provide it again?

In the past, forms for reporting race and ethnicity to the federal government allowed individuals to be identified in only one racial category. The new form enables individuals to be identified in ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category. The federal government is requiring that ethnic and racial information for all students and staff be reported in this new way in order to reflect the nation's diversity more accurately.

How will the information be used?

The data with the new ethnicity/race categories will be used in the same manner that racial/ethnic data are currently used. The new categories will replace the existing categories for use in all state and federally sponsored statistical data collections that include data on ethnicity or race. Some examples include student record cards and test results.

Who provides the information?

Parents/Guardians will complete a brief form to identify their children's ethnic and racial identify. Staff members will receive a form to fill out their own information.

When and how will the new information be gathered?

Aurora Public Schools will follow the new federal guidelines beginning in the fall of 2009. The new form will be distributed to all schools. The families of newly enrolled students AND of all current students will be asked to complete the form and return it to the school. Staff members will be asked to fill out a form at a later time, yet to be determined.