

Collection and Reporting of Race/Ethnicity Data in 2010–11

Questions and Answers

1. **Q.** If a student is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (question 1 is answered YES, Hispanic), must question 2 that asks for the student's racial group also be answered?

A. Yes. For reporting purposes, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin is considered an ethnicity, not a race. As such, all students—including those of Hispanic, Latino, and Spanish origin—must also identify their race(s) by selecting at least one from question 2.
2. **Q.** What guidance should be provided to students who consider themselves of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (question 1 is answered YES, Hispanic) but do not identify with any of the races in question 2? For example, if a student is from Peru and his/her family has been there for generations, what selection should be made in question 2?

A. Observers should not tell a parent how to classify the student or tell the student how to classify himself or herself. When asked, simply restate the question, explaining the definition of each racial group. For reporting purposes, Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin is considered an ethnicity, not a race. If a parent just states that a student is Hispanic, observers should encourage the parent to also select one or more racial group because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
3. **Q.** If a student's mother is Hispanic and father is White, how should the student's ethnicity and race be indicated?

A. Respondents must be allowed to indicate all races and ethnicity that apply. For this student, the respondent may indicate YES, Hispanic as the answer to question 1 and White to question 2. If the student belongs to other racial groups besides White, those groups may also be indicated. Ultimately, it is for the respondent to choose race and ethnicity.
4. **Q.** If a student is from South America or Central America (for example, Guatemala), which racial group in question 2 should be selected?

A. The definition of American Indian or Alaska Native includes South America and Central America. However, to be identified in this category, the student must also maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community recognition, as the definition indicates. If the student does not maintain cultural identification, another racial group should be selected.
5. **Q.** May we incorporate questions 1 and 2 into our regular enrollment form?

A. Yes. As long as the two-question format is preserved, the questions may be incorporated into an existing form.

6. **Q.** What value will districts need to report in Field 12 of the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) Student Lite template for students who are members of more than one racial group? The sample form for districts to use did not suggest that districts ask parents to identify a PRIMARY race. “M” no longer seems to be a valid code for Field 12 to indicate that students belong to more than one racial group.

A. Beginning in 2010–11, all of the race fields in the student template (fields 12, 43, 44, 45, and 46) will be of equal value. No one race field will be considered primary. In developing the extract, field 12 will always be populated. Fields 43–46 will be populated (from lowest to highest field number) only if there is more than one race selected. For example, field 43 will be populated if there are 2 races chosen; while fields 44–46 will be null. Fields 43 and 44 will be populated only if there are 3 races chosen; while fields 45 and 46 will be null. When populating the race fields, the options to choose from will be:

I = American Indian or Alaska Native
A = Asian
B = Black or African American
P = Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
W = White

M = Multiracial will not be an option. The category "two or more races" will be derived from the data in the race fields (fields 12, 43, 44, 45, and 46), taking into consideration the Hispanic indicator (field 42).

7. **Q.** If a respondent selects Black *and* American Indian or Alaska Native for question 2, the student will be reported in the category of “two or more races.” However, there are funds allocated based on counts of American Indian or Alaska Native students. Will this new data collection and reporting process impact the receipt of grant and federal monies for American Indian or Alaska Natives? Will the collected data be able to be disaggregated by each separate race even if the student has more than one racial group reported?

A. The data used to award funding for American Indian or Alaska Native-related grants and programs is gathered through a separate application process that includes its own data collection and reporting rules. These rules contain a requirement that the list of individuals on which the funding is based must receive tribal approval. As such, data collection in SIRS will not impact the receipt of grant and federal monies for this group.

The new federal requirement for data collection related to the reporting of race and ethnicity will allow for students who are considered American Indian or Alaska Native to be identified as such on an individual basis. That will give us the capability to determine the number of students who are reported with American Indian or Alaska Native in one of the race fields.

8. **Q.** How will this change in aggregate reporting impact the counts of accountability subgroups?

A. It is possible that the new requirements will result in a change in the aggregate counts of students in ethnic/racial accountability subgroups. In addition, this

change in collection and reporting practices will have an impact on the comparison of subgroup counts between the 2009-10 school year (or earlier) and the 2010-11 school year (or later).

9. **Q.** When do student-level data reported to the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) need to reflect these new rules?

A. Any student-level records that are sent to the SIRS for 2010-11 will need to be in the new format. Schools will not be able to load any 2010-11 data into the SIRS until the necessary modifications have been made.

Student records sent to the SIRS for 2009-10 must remain in the current format.