



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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September 21, 2010

TO: LEA Superintendents
LEA Personnel Directors
LEA NC WISE Coordinators
Charter Schools Directors

FROM: June St. Clair Atkinson *JSAC*

Karl Pond
Enterprise Data Manager

SUBJECT: Immediate Attention Required!

Non-Compliance with Re-Identification: Compliance with the federally mandated race/ethnicity re-identification due by September 28, 2010

Many schools have not yet completed their mandatory re-identification of all students and staff members. As previously communicated via the NC WISE news letter, video conferences, phone calls and e-mails the NC WISE staff has uploaded the changes provided by each LEA and charter school. After analysis of the re-identified data, there remain a large number of students who have not been given the opportunity to comply or may have declined to self-identify.

Students, or their families, and staff members may decline to re-identify their race/ethnicity. In each of these cases, however per USED guidance, schools must identify the individual through observer identification. This mandate requires that the school or LEA visually re-identify any individual who refuses to provide race/ethnicity information. To be in compliance with the federal law, the school or LEA must respond to both questions. This information must be submitted to NCDPI by September 28, 2010.

Background and guidance pertaining to the re-identification of race/ethnicity is available on NCDPI's Race/Ethnicity website. The website can be viewed at the following URL: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management/race-ethnicity/>.

Impact of Non-Compliance: Federal reporting requirements for all programs mandate that race/ethnicity be part of the submission. Student counts are impacted by those students who cannot be submitted due to missing race/ethnicity identification. This may directly affect funding of certain programs and ultimately impact services within LEAs and schools.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYEE

Immediate Attention Required: In order to ensure that accurate headcounts for October 1, 2010 reporting requirements are available, all students must be re-identified by September 28, 2010. All LEAs and schools with students who have not re-identified must provide the new race/ethnicity designation in order to be counted in the October 1 headcounts for funding. This may require observer identification on the part of school or LEA personnel.

DPI Assistance: NC WISE will provide reports that assist the LEA/school in determining the remaining students to be re-identified. The NC WISE Reporting Hub “R & E Adhoc field error correction” report contains students Race/Ethnicity data requiring corrections due to errors:

- For any student record in this report that does not contain a response for both race and ethnicity, the missing responses must be provided.
- For the students in this report who were previously identified as American Indian, Black, or White using the old identification method, and no correction is made to their records by 5:00 pm September 28, 2010, we will consider these identifications as verified per your direction.
- All old identifications for Asian/Pacific Islander or Multi-racial will require re-identification as these responses have changed and upon verification will require new selections. Specifically:
 - Multi-racial will need to identify all combinations of race
 - Asian/Pacific Islander will need to identify as either:
 - Asian or,
 - Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

USED Guidance: The October 2007 guidance published by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) (contained within 72 Fed. Reg. 59266, Oct. 19, 2007) implements new standards for Race/Ethnicity data collection and reporting. The USED requires full implementation of these changes by school year 2010-11. The guidance follows almost ten years of deliberation, discussion, and approval and should be viewed as permanent and mandatory.

Frequently Asked Question: Does Hispanic/Latino ethnicity need to provide a race selection? All individuals must have responses to both ethnicity and race. Specifically, most questions relate to the Hispanic/Latino selection. Hispanic/Latinos will need to identify a race as well as their ethnicity.

Questions

We recognize these new regulations have required each LEA/charter to adjust their business processes related to student and staff accounting. Again, to assist you in making these changes, we will have provided guidance both via the website and e-mail, and will

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be happy to answer whatever questions you still might have. For questions pertaining to policy, please feel free to contact Karl Pond at kpond@dpi.state.nc.us or (919) 807-3241 or for procedural questions, the Service Desk at ncwise.incidents@dpi.state.nc.us.

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