

<p>SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS</p> <p>VOLUNTARY FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDENT SELF-IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES</p>	<p>8000</p> <p>8062</p>
---	---------------------------------------

1. Rationale

Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) is aware that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives on the school system have been profoundly impacted by processes of colonization, including residential schools. These experiences have resulted in intergenerational mistrust of the education system. Lakehead District School Board understands that it will take continued time and commitment to build a climate of trust so that Indigenous families feel confident in voluntarily self-identifying. Accordingly, Indigenous education is recognized as a priority by LDSB and attention to Indigenous student achievement and wellbeing is actively supported at all levels.

2. Policy

It is the policy of LDSB to provide the opportunity for voluntary self-identification of Indigenous students as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

- 2.1 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit identification is defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35 (2), and “includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.”
- 2.2 Self-identification data will be kept confidential in the same manner as Ontario Student Records (OSR).
- 2.3. Lakehead District School Board recognizes the importance of collaborative relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and will seek the advice of the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee in policy review and implementation.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS	8000
VOLUNTARY FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDENT SELF-IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES	8062

3. Definitions

The following definitions are made without prejudice.

3.1 “First Nations” peoples include both status and non-status peoples:

- Status refers to peoples registered under the Indian Act of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), holding certain rights and benefits that are not available to non-status or Métis people and possessing a registry number with ISC.
- Non-status refers to peoples who can identify where their ancestral lands are (First Nation or reserve community), who are not registered under the Indian Act of Indigenous Services Canada due to ineligibility or who have not applied for their status.

(Sources: Indigenous Services Canada, “What is Indian Status” 2023 <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/> ; Indian Act, Sections 5,6)

3.2 “Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Indigenous peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

(Source: Métis National Council, “The Métis” Ottawa, ON: 2023)

3.3 Inuit is a distinct group of Indigenous people who have ancestral ties to Northern Canada (Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec, and Northern Labrador).

(Source: [Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada - Canada.ca](https://www.cca.ca/crown-indigenous-relations-and-northern-affairs); Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, “Inuit Historical Perspectives” <https://www.itk.ca/about-inuit> , 2023)

4. Collection of Information

4.1 Voluntary self-identification data will be collected on Student Registration Forms for all new students enrolling in LDSB, and on Student Verification Process for all students currently enrolled.

<p>SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS</p> <p>VOLUNTARY FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDENT SELF-IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES</p>	<p>8000</p> <p>8062</p>
---	---------------------------------------

- 4.2 Lakehead District School Board will endeavour to increase the accuracy of self-identification numbers by:
 - 4.2.1 Increasing awareness through including information about self-identification in school newsletters, LDSB and school websites, and social media.
 - 4.2.2 Schools will send home LDSB’s self-identification information with all students, every three years, and with incoming year one Kindergarten students every year.
- 4.3 In accordance with Anti-Racism Act (2017), employees will be trained to collect self-identification data in a respectful, culturally safe, accessible way that ensures individual privacy and confidentiality and is responsive to the needs of individuals and communities.

5. Data Storage, Protection and Usage

- 5.1 All student data will be securely stored to respect the privacy of each Indigenous student. Data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records (OSR) and protected and governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- 5.2 All staff data is stored in a staff information management system.
- 5.3 Individual data will not be communicated. The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only.
- 5.4 All student and staff self-identification data will be securely stored to respect privacy and used only to develop and implement supportive education programs within the LDSB.
- 5.5 Information will be communicated to the Ministry of Education and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) for reporting purposes required by the province.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS	8000
VOLUNTARY FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDENT SELF-IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES	8062

6. Review

These procedures shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee	June 13, 2023	
8070 Safe Schools- System Expectations		