

Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI)

Information for Parents

What is the purpose of the Aboriginal self-identification question on school registration forms?

The ALDCI was introduced to identify First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students in the province for the purpose of helping to improve education programs and achievement for FNMI learners.

Why does Alberta Education want to know if my child is Aboriginal?

This information helps Alberta Education and school authorities to understand First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) student achievement and is used to determine the FNMI funding allocation provided to school authorities to improve learning outcomes and enhance success for FNMI students. Answering the Aboriginal self-identification question is voluntary.

How will FNMI student data be used?

Alberta Education and school authorities will use the information to plan for program improvements, to make policy and funding decisions, and to measure and report FNMI student achievement. Student achievement measures include high school completion rate, drop out rate, transition rate from high school to post-secondary education, and Provincial Achievement and Diploma examination results. The results of **self-identified FNMI students** will be reported in a respectful way that protects the anonymity of the students.

How will my child benefit from answering the voluntary self-identification question?

Knowing how FNMI students are doing in school will help Alberta Education and school authorities to understand what programs are working, where additional programs and supports are required, and what changes may be needed to improve the education system for the benefit of FNMI students.

Does this voluntary identity question apply to First Nation students attending a band operated school?

No. The ALDCI applies only to First Nation students attending schools off-reserve in Alberta. Some First Nation students living on a reserve, attending school off-reserve may choose to self-identify as First Nation for data collection purposes.

How do I know if my child is First Nation, Non-Status, Métis or Inuit?

Alberta Education does not define or verify Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal identity is best explored and determined by each individual family.

Will anyone else (besides Alberta Education and necessary school personnel) know my children's name, grade or marks?

No. Alberta Education has ensured that individual students cannot be identified.

Will my child be treated differently if s/he identifies her/himself?

No. Schools must ensure that confidentiality of student information is maintained and that all children are treated with respect. Your child's personal information is managed and protected by Alberta's privacy laws, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act)*, the *Personal Information and Protection Act (PIPA)*, the *School Act* and the *Student Record Regulation*.

What is the Aboriginal identity question?

The following question box appears on registration forms for public, separate, francophone, charter and some private schools. Answering the Aboriginal self-identification question is voluntary.

<i>If you wish to declare that you are an Aboriginal person, please specify:</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Status Indian/First Nations</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Non-Status Indian/First Nations</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Métis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Inuit</i>
<p><i>Alberta Education is collecting this personal information pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act as the information relates directly to and is necessary to meet its mandate and responsibilities to measure system effectiveness over time and develop policies, programs and services to improve Aboriginal learner success. Alberta school boards are also collecting this information pursuant to the same section in conjunction with section 2(1)(t) of the Student Record Regulation and for the same purposes. This information will also be used to determine the provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit Funding Allocation provided to school authorities.</i></p> <p><i>For further information or if you have questions regarding the collection activity, please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division, Alberta Education, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB, T5J 4L5, (780) 427-8501. If you have questions regarding the collection activity by the XYZ school board, please contact the XYZ School Board Superintendent at... (insert contact information)</i></p>			

Who can I contact to find out more about the ALDCI?

For further information about the collection of FNMI student data please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division, Alberta Education, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB, T5J 4L5, (780) 427-8501.