

# NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## **ABORIGINAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION POLICY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board will offer programs as a way to assist Aboriginal students who experience gaps in their education by establishing measures that respond to specific needs. All Aboriginal students and their parents are entitled to voluntarily self-identify so that they may receive supportive programming. The first such practice in recognizing this right is to create a self-identification process to identify, collect and combine student achievement data for Aboriginal students.

### **POLICY REGULATIONS**

#### **1. DEFINITION**

- 1.1 Aboriginal identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2), in that "Aboriginal peoples" include "Indian, Inuit and Métis."

#### **2. OBJECTIVES**

**Northeastern Catholic District School Board has established the following Policy Regulations for Aboriginal education within its region:**

- 2.1 To provide high-quality learning opportunities that are reactive the Aboriginal learner
- 2.2 To continue to set high expectations for Aboriginal student success in supported learning settings
- 2.3 To offer high quality learning opportunities that are responsive to the learner
- 2.4 To improve the retention and graduation rate of Aboriginal students
- 2.5 To ensure that all Aboriginal learners are well prepared for post-secondary studies and the world of work
- 2.6 To encourage effective working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal parents and the general Aboriginal community

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3. **CONFIDENTIALITY PROTOCOL**

- 3.1 All data will be securely stored to respect the privacy of every Aboriginal student and used only as a method to enhance Aboriginal education programs of Northeastern Catholic District School Board
- 3.2 Individual data will not be communicated. The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only for the goal of developing and implementing supportive programs.
- 3.3 All data will be treated in the same method as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the Freedom of Information Act.

4. **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- 4.1 This policy will evolve as the boards search to improve achievement and program delivery for Aboriginal students. For implementation and future refinement of the policy, the following principles will guide us:
  - 4.1.1 Inclusiveness
  - 4.1.2 Innovation
  - 4.1.3 Transparency
  - 4.1.4 Learner-centred
  - 4.1.5 Equitable
  - 4.1.6 Collaborative
  - 4.1.7 Respectful of privacy
  - 4.1.8 Results-oriented
  - 4.1.9 Responsive
  - 4.1.10 Reflect cultural diversity

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5. **EVALUATION**

- 5.1 The data collected as a result of this policy will be evaluated on an annual basis.  
The results will be reported to the Advisory Council and to the Board.