

Fairfield Community School District

Superintendent
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March 15, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff. The federal government, which requires all states to collect this information, has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories.

The federal government has developed these new categories in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. This will enable individuals to be identified in ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category. In the past, forms allowed individuals to be identified in only one racial category.

Currently, Fairfield Community Schools asks families to provide information on students' race and ethnicity at the time of enrollment. Beginning in 2010, we will now ask the families of newly enrolled students AND of all current students to complete a brief form to update information on their children's ethnicity and race.

The data with the new ethnicity and race categories will be used in the same manner that such information is currently used. For example, the federal government uses racial and ethnic data in reporting and analyzing test results, such as ISTEP+ and the End of Course Assessments. The new categories will replace all existing categories for use in state and federal data collections that include data on ethnicity or race.

On the reverse side of this letter is the survey on ethnicity and race; we ask that you complete this two-question survey for each of your children. Should you have questions, a question-and-answer sheet providing additional information about these changes is available at your child's school or at the district website at www.fairfield.k12.in.us. Please feel free to contact your child's school or call Assistant Superintendent Steve Thalheimer at 574-831-2188 with questions.

Respectfully,
Thomas Tumey
Superintendent of Schools

"Maximum performance is achieved through maximum effort with maximum opportunity."