

February 15, 2010

Dear Parents/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. 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.

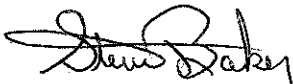
Currently, Elkhorn Public Schools asks families to provide information on students' race and ethnicity at the time of enrollment. We are asking all families of current students to complete a brief form to update the information on their children's ethnicity and race.

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 the Nebraska State Standards Assessments for the State of the Schools Report. The new categories will replace all existing categories for use in the state and federal data collections that include data on ethnicity or race.

Please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school. If an updated form is not completed the student's status will remain the same that was entered on the enrollment form for this year.

Additional information and a copy of the form are located on the district's website under District Information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Steve Baker
Superintendent

Student Name _____

Grade Level _____

Federal and State Regulations require Elkhorn Public Schools to gather information in this way for statistical reports.

Is this student Hispanic/Latino? *(Choose only one)*

- No, not Hispanic/Latino**
- Yes, Hispanic/Latino**

What is the student's race? *(Choose one or more)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native**
- Asian**
- Black or African American**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander**
- White**