

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Each year, every school district in Iowa is required to report student data by race and ethnicity to the Iowa Department of Education. Iowa must report this information to the federal government. The Iowa Department of Education reports school level data and does not report individual student data to the federal government. School data is reported as totals within various categories. These reports help keep track of changes in student enrollments and ensure that all students receive the educational programs and services to which they are entitled. Iowa must follow the reporting requirements determined by the federal government, including categories for reporting race and ethnicity.

Recently, the federal government changed the procedure for identifying race and ethnicity. Not only do the changes allow individuals to more accurately identify themselves, but it also matches the race and ethnicity collections on all other federal reporting like the Census. Because of the new reporting categories for race and ethnicity, you will need to update your child's data. Starting in 2009–2010 school year, all schools in Iowa have been reporting student data to the Iowa Department of Education using the new categories.

Currently, the Essex Community School asks families to provide information on students' race and ethnicity at the time of enrollment. We are asking all families to update information on their children's ethnicity and race during the registration process for the 2015-2016 school year. If we do not receive a response from you, an employee of the district will be required to provide this information based on observation. (Note that federal regulations do not permit districts to leave the space blank.) Please contact your child's school principal if you would like to check the student data currently on file for your child.

For more information about the data reporting categories, please visit the Race/Ethnicity Regulations section at the Iowa Department of Education's website under Data Reporting/Project EASIER. The URL address is as follows:  
[http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=1261](http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=1261)

Sincerely,  
Paul Croghan

Superintendent of Schools

Student Name:

Guardian:

Please provide an answer for Part A and Part B

Part A. Is this student Hispanic/Latino? (Choose only one)

No, not Hispanic/Latino

Yes, Hispanic/Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.)

The above part of the question is about ethnicity, not race. No matter what you selected above, please continue to answer the following by marking one or more boxes to indicate what you consider your student's race to be.

Part B. What is the student's race? (Choose one or more)

American Indian or Alaska Native (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.)

Asian (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Phillipine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)

Black or African American (A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)

White (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.)