

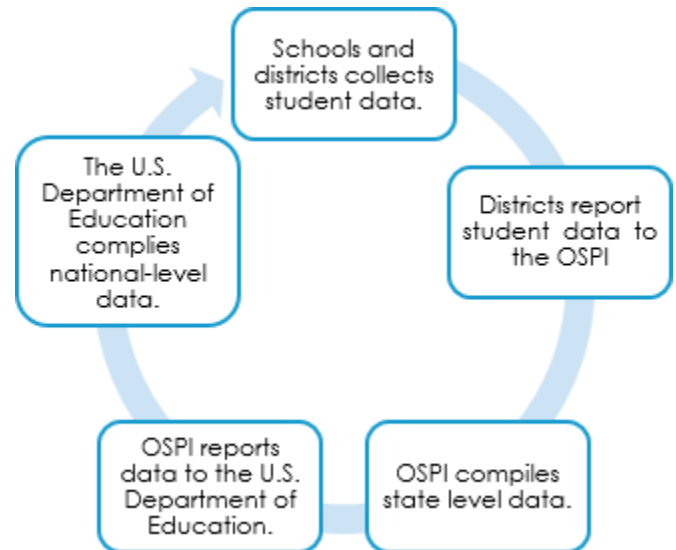
# Race and Ethnicity Student Data: Family Rights and Responsibilities

## Student Data Overview

Student data tells us if education programs are working. It tells us if students, schools, and districts are succeeding. This information helps local and state government make informed decisions based on facts, rather than anecdotes.

### STUDENT DATA...

- Informs education policies.
- Improves teaching and learning.
- Monitors student progress.
- Monitors school and district progress.
- Identifies struggling students who need additional help.



The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction compiles and reports state-level student data annually. To view this data, see the website: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx>

***Student information is not intended to harm individuals and/or groups of students, nor will it be presented in a way that identifies individual students.***

## Race and Ethnicity Categories

All K-12 public schools collect and report student race and ethnicity annually. When collecting this data, schools are required to use a two-part question:

**(1) Is your child of Hispanic or Latino origin? (yes or no)**

**(2) What races do you consider your child? (check all that apply)**

- A. American Indian or Alaska Native
- B. Asian
- C. Black or African American
- D. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- E. White



## Definitions of Race and Ethnicity

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Definition</i>
1. Hispanic/Latino	A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

<i>Race</i>	<i>Definition</i>
2. American Indian or Alaskan 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.
3. 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 Philippine Island, Thailand, and Vietnam.
4. Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
6. White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

## Detailed Categories

Beginning the 2018-2019 school year, schools in Washington use detailed racial and ethnic categories when collecting race and ethnicity data. For example, if you identify as Asian, you also have the option to select or write-in the ethnic group you identify with. This data provides schools and the state with more information about which groups of students need more resources. In

the previous system, some groups of students were overlooked because the data did not capture enough information. Detailed racial and ethnic categories will help ensure that groups of students in need of support are not overlooked.

Asian Pakistani

Check all that apply and use write-in, as needed.

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian	<input type="checkbox"/> Punjabi
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Singaporean
<input type="checkbox"/> Bhutanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Sri Lankan
<input type="checkbox"/> Burmese/Myanmar	<input type="checkbox"/> Lao	<input type="checkbox"/> Taiwanese
<input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian/Khmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Malaysian	<input type="checkbox"/> Thai
<input type="checkbox"/> Cham	<input type="checkbox"/> Mien	<input type="checkbox"/> Tibetan
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Mongolian	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Nepali	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hmong	<input type="checkbox"/> Okinawan	

Asian Write in: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## Purpose

By collecting more detailed student race and ethnicity data, Washington State seeks to:

- Improve teaching and learning
- Promote racial equity
- Create systemic change
- Advocate for racial and ethnic underserved populations
- Better serve all communities in Washington

## Family Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), established in 1974, is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Records contain student information, such as grades, transcripts, class lists, student course schedules, health records, and student discipline files. Schools keep an education record on file for every student at the school.

FERPA provides your family with the following rights<sup>1</sup>:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent/guardian or eligible student has the right to a formal hearing. If the school still decides not to amend the record after the hearing, the parent/guardian or eligible student can attach a statement to the student record stating his or her view.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

## Self-Identification

By law, you are not required to identify the race or ethnicity of your child on school forms. However, if you choose not to identify the race and ethnicity of your child, school staff will choose for you. When school staff fills out the race and ethnicity questions on behalf of the student and parent/guardian, it is called 'observer identification'. Schools will only use observer identification as a last resort. It is preferred that parents fill this form out instead because it is more accurate.

Student race and ethnicity information is collected for the purpose of improving teaching and learning. Accurately identifying groups of students currently underserved by the education system is the first step in creating positive changes at the local, state, and national level.

## Observer Identification

If you decide not to fill out and return the attached race and ethnicity, school staff will do it for you (observer identification). To do this, we will collect background information on your student by:

- Reviewing student records, documenting the race and ethnicity of the student in previous years.
- If the student has siblings: reviewing their student records, documenting their previous race and ethnicity information.
- Talking with counselors and teachers who have had the student previously.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html?src=rn>. For more information: <http://familypolicy.ed.gov/ferpa-parents-students>

## How are race and ethnicity data used?

OSPI summarizes these data and reports the summary to the U.S. Department of Education **using federal categories and reporting rules as follows:**

- If you answer YES to the question, **Is your child of Hispanic or Latino origin?**, your child will be reported as Hispanic/Latino. This means that their data will be combined with data of other students in this group and together their data will be reported as **Hispanic/Latino**.
- If you answer NO to the question, **Is your child of Hispanic or Latino origin?**, your child will not be reported as Hispanic/Latino. Your child will be reported based on responses to the question, **What race do you consider your child? (check all that apply)**.
  - If you select **American Indian or Alaska Native** only, or detailed groups within **American Indian or Alaska Native** only, your child will be reported in this group.
  - If you select **Asian** only, or detailed groups within **Asian** only, your child will be reported in this group.
  - If you select **Black or African American** only, or in detailed groups within **Black or African American** only, your child will be reported in this group.
  - If you select **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** only, or detailed groups within **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** only, your child will be reported in this group.
  - If you select **White** only, or detailed groups within **White** only, your child will be reported in this group.
  - If you select **more than one racial group** or select detailed groups from **more than one racial group**, your child will be reported as **Two or more races**.

Trends about the students in your school and your district will also be shown using these federal categories. These are available on the [OPSI Report Card](#) and in other public links. Using these categories, OPSI publishes data for each school or district, using techniques designed to protect the identities of individual students. OSPI is currently exploring ways to summarize and report upon the **detailed race and ethnicity data** for each school and district in a way that provides critical information about students and communities while also protecting student privacy. In addition, OSPI shares summary data for Washington State with the Legislature, community groups and education organizations.

OSPI appreciates your support in providing this information so that we may better understand and improve teaching and learning across Washington.