



Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI): Information for Parents and Guardians

Alberta Education's Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI) helps to determine the number of First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) learners in provincial school authorities through voluntary self-identification during the student registration process. Collecting this data is an important step to improving the educational achievement of FNMI learners.

What is the purpose of the Aboriginal self-identification question on school registration forms?

This question was introduced to identify First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students in the province in order to help improve education programs and to support FNMI student success. Self-identification is voluntary and does not require verification.

Why does Alberta Education want to know if my child is Aboriginal?

This information helps the department and school authorities to learn more about First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) student achievement and is used to determine the FNMI funding allocation provided to school authorities to improve learning outcomes and enhance success for FNMI students.

How will my child benefit from answering the voluntary self-identification question?

Knowing how FNMI students are doing in school helps Alberta Education and school authorities to understand what programs are working, where additional programs and supports are required, and what changes may be needed to improve the education system for the benefit of FNMI students.

How is the student data used?

Alberta Education and school authorities use the information to plan for program improvements, to make policy and funding decisions, and to measure and report FNMI student achievement. Student achievement measures include high school completion rates, dropout rates, transition rates from high school to post-secondary education, and results on provincial achievement tests and diploma exams. Achievement results of **self-identified FNMI students** are reported in a respectful way that protects the anonymity of individual students. Provincial FNMI results are included in Alberta Education's [Annual Report](http://education.alberta.ca/department/annualreport.aspx) <http://education.alberta.ca/department/annualreport.aspx>.

Will anyone else (besides Alberta Education and necessary school personnel) know my child's name, grade or marks?

No. Alberta Education has ensured that individual student information is protected.

Does this voluntary identity question apply to First Nation students attending band operated schools?

No. The ALDCI applies only to students attending schools off-reserve in Alberta. Some First Nation students living on a reserve and attending school off-reserve may choose to self-identify as First Nation for data collection purposes.

Is proof of status or identity required? How do I know if my child is First Nation, Non-Status, Métis or Inuit?

Alberta Education does not ask schools to verify Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal identity is best explored and determined by each individual family by contacting your local Métis organization or Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Will my child be treated differently if he or she answers this question?

No. Schools must ensure that confidentiality of student information is maintained and that all children are treated with respect. Your child's personal information is managed and protected by Alberta's privacy laws, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act)*, the *Personal Information and Protection Act (PIPA)*, the *School Act* and the *Student Record Regulation*.

What is the Aboriginal identity question?

The following question box appears on registration forms for public, separate, francophone, charter and some private schools. Answering the Aboriginal self-identification question is voluntary and no verification of status is required.

If you wish to declare that you are an Aboriginal person, please specify:

Status Indian/First Nations **Non-Status Indian/First Nations** **Métis** **Inuit**

Alberta Education is collecting this personal information pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act as the information relates directly to and is necessary to meet its mandate and responsibilities to measure system effectiveness over time and develop policies, programs and services to improve Aboriginal learner success. Alberta school boards are also collecting this information pursuant to the same section in conjunction with section 2(1)(t) of the Student Record Regulation and for the same purposes. This information will also be used to determine the provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit Funding Allocation provided to school authorities.

For further information or if you have questions regarding the collection activity, please contact:

Office of the Director Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division Alberta Education,
10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB, T5J 4L5 at 780-427-8501 or dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free from anywhere in Alberta.

If you have questions regarding the collection activity by the (XYZ) school board, please contact the (XYZ) School Board Superintendent at... (insert contact information).

Who can I contact to find out more about the ALDCI?

Please contact Jane Martin, Director, Aboriginal Policy, Alberta Education at 780-427-8501 (dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access).