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BANDERA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff.

The USDE requires all state and local education institutions to collect information on ethnicity and race for students and staff. This information is used for state and federal accountability reporting, as well as for reporting to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The federal government has developed a new standard for collecting and reporting this data in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. These reporting categories were used in the 2000 Census.

The new standard enables individuals to be identified in both ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category if applicable. In the past, individuals could only select one category.

Texas schools will adopt the new standard in the 2009 – 2010 school year. As a result, you are being asked to review and update your race and ethnicity information.

Enclosed is the standard form required by the Texas Education Agency for collecting this information. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Central Office.

If we do not hear back from you, please be aware that the USDE requires the school district to employ observer identification as a last resort for federal reporting. Please contact the Personnel office if you would like to check your race and ethnicity information currently on file.

Sincerely,

Regina Howell
Superintendent of Schools

Bandera ISD: On Target to be the Best!

**Texas Education Agency
Texas Public School Student/Staff Ethnicity and Race Data Questionnaire**

The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires all state and local education institutions to collect data on ethnicity and race for students and staff. This information is used for state and federal accountability reporting as well as for reporting to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

School district staff and parents or guardians of students enrolling in school are requested to provide this information. If you decline to provide this information, please be aware that the USDE requires school districts to use observer identification as a last resort for collecting the data for federal reporting.

Please answer both parts of the following questions on the student's or staff member's ethnicity and race. *United States Federal Register (71 FR 44866)*

Part 1. Ethnicity: Is the person Hispanic/Latino? (Choose only one)

- Hispanic/Latino** - A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- Not Hispanic/Latino**

Part 2. Race: What is the person'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 a 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 Philippine 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.

Student/Staff Name (please print)

(Parent/Guardian)/(Staff) Signature

Student/Staff Identification Number

Date

Texas Education Agency – March 2009