

Policy Title	Indigenous Self-Identification		
Date of Issue	June 19, 2007	Related Procedure	
Revision Dates	June 16, 2009; February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan); February 21, 2017; December 19, 2017	Related Forms	
Review Date	February 1, 2022	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
Ontario's Indigenous Education Strategy; Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2014; Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action, 2015			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Bluewater District School Board recognizes that the learning aspirations and potentials of Indigenous students can be realized through a responsive, transparent and accountable policy that focuses on improved programs and services and builds on strong partnerships with Indigenous parents and their communities.
- 1.3 To accomplish this goal student achievement data needs to be collected and aggregated related to the performance of Indigenous students to provide us with data to determine whether programs currently delivered offer similar opportunities for success as for other students. Continued data collection and analysis will provide information for future decision-making surrounding Indigenous student success.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 **Bluewater District School Board is committed to providing programs and putting into place measures that respond to the needs of Indigenous students. All Indigenous students and their parents have the right to voluntarily self-identify, a process that will provide the necessary data to inform the board about specific program needs for Indigenous students. It is through this voluntary identification process that the board proposes to establish a process to collect and aggregate student achievement data for Indigenous students.**
- 2.2 **The expectation is that this collection of Indigenous student achievement data will provide the board with relevant data to develop appropriate strategies to meet the goals established for Indigenous education in Bluewater District School Board schools.**
- 2.3 **Bluewater District School Board is committed to expanding the understanding and respect for the Indigenous culture, history and perspectives.**

3.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

3.1 Goals

Bluewater District School Board endeavours to develop and implement education programs that will:

- i. provide high quality learning opportunities that are responsive, flexible, and accessible to the learner
- ii. set high expectations for learner achievement in supported learning environments
- iii. improve EQAO test scores for Indigenous students
- iv. improve retention rates of Indigenous students
- v. increase graduation rates of Indigenous students

- vi. ensure that learners are well-prepared for participation in post-secondary studies and the world of work
- vii. promote effective, respectful working relationships and partnerships with Indigenous parents and the general Indigenous community

3.2 Guidelines

Bluewater District School Board will consistently seek to improve achievement and program delivery for Indigenous students. In the implementation and refinement of this policy the following principles will guide the board:

- i. transparency
- ii. inclusiveness
- iii. innovation
- iv. learner-centeredness
- v. equity
- vi. responsiveness
- vii. collaboration
- viii. respect for individual privacy and dignity
- ix. results-orientation
- x. acknowledgement and reflection of cultural diversity
- xi. contribution to the knowledge base through research

3.3 Security

The following security measures will apply to all data collected:

- i. All data will be securely stored to respect privacy and will be used only as a means to enhance Indigenous education programs within Bluewater District School Board.
- ii. All data collected will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and be protected and governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Individual data will not be communicated.
- iii. The information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and will be used for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive programs.

4.4 Evaluation

The Director of Education, or designate, will ensure that all data collected as a result of this policy is evaluated on an annual basis by board staff, and the results are reported to the board.