

---

## DEFINITIONS

In keeping with the definition of Indigenous peoples under the Constitution, all self-identification policies developed by school boards need to recognize and address the following four cohorts of Indigenous students attending provincially funded schools in Ontario:

### Indigenous

1. **First Nation** students who live in First Nation communities but attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools under tuition agreements
2. **First Nation** students who live in the jurisdictions of school boards and attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools
3. **Métis** students who attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools
4. **Inuit** students who attend provincially funded elementary or secondary schools

\*\* Definition from Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students

---

## Registration Process

Students who are already attending a Bluewater District School Board elementary or secondary school and wish to self-identify can do so by going to the office and updating their registration form that is on file. **New students** who are registering to attend a Bluewater District School Board elementary or secondary school can have their Indigenous status recorded when the Student Registration form is being completed.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION

Contact:  
Bluewater District School Board  
Stephanie Tschirhart,  
Indigenous Advisor  
Box 190 - 351 First Avenue North,  
Chesley, ON N0G 1L0  
(519) 363-2014 ext. 3003  
[Stephanie\\_Tschirhart@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Stephanie_Tschirhart@bwdsb.on.ca)



Revised Fall 2020

---

## Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Process

*"Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow"*



**Bluewater District  
School Board**

## WHY IS BLUEWATER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ASKING STUDENTS TO SELF-IDENTIFY?

Bluewater District School Board is committed to providing effective education to all of their students. It is working to meet two primary challenges, to improve achievement among Indigenous students and to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the areas of:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Retention of students in school
- Graduation rates
- Advancement to postsecondary studies

## WHAT IS VOLUNTARY INDIGENOUS SELF-IDENTIFICATION

This process provides an opportunity for those who are Indigenous to identify their ancestry to the board. The information will be used to help determine and improve the achievements and outcomes. This process is by choice.



## The Benefits

- Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities, events, or student leadership opportunities specifically for Indigenous students
- Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including support staff designated to meet Indigenous student needs
- Communication between schools, Indigenous education staff, Indigenous students, and their families

## Who will have access to the data?

The data collected will be securely stored, and will be used only by staff to determine programming and support for students of Indigenous ancestry.

The data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and governed by the **Freedom of Information and Privacy Act**. It will inform the board if the strategies that have been implemented to support students of Indigenous ancestry are resulting in improved learning.



## PROMOTING SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS OF INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY

In keeping with the four provincial goals for education

1. Achieving Excellence
2. Ensuring Equity
3. Promoting Well-Being
4. Enhancing Public Confidence

The Ministry of Education developed the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Policy Framework*, which outlines the strategies to be used to increase educational outcomes for students of Indigenous ancestry.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/fnmiframework.pdf>

“The Ministry of Education will use data for self-identified Indigenous students when monitoring and evaluating the impact of implementation activities”.  
Implementation Plan Ontario FNMI Education Policy Framework