



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-015

TO: School District Superintendents
Business Managers
Principals
Technology Coordinators

FROM: Shannon Cranmore, Data Analyst/EDEN Coordinator
Technology, Careers & Data Unit

DATE: January 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Implementation of New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In October of 2007, the US Department of Education (USED) released new guidance on collecting and reporting racial and ethnic data. The guidance took effect on December 3, 2007, and full implementation is required no later than the 2010-11 school year.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has been working internally as well as with Student Information System (SIS) vendors to ensure that systems are ready for these new collecting and reporting requirements.

The Department will require districts to start collecting and reporting under the new race and ethnicity guidelines for all data collections in the 2009-10 school year. This will provide Wyoming's districts and the WDE one year to ensure that we are fully prepared to seamlessly meet all federal requirements, attached to which there are serious ramifications for non-compliance, for the 2010-11 school year.

What does this mean for school districts? The new federal collection standards mandate that districts must provide all students and staff the opportunity to re-identify their race/ethnicity via the following guidance provided by the USED:

There are two different parts to the question, requiring two distinct responses. The first part asks about the broad category of ethnicity, and the second part asks about the more narrow divisions of race. The first part asks the respondent to identify his or her ethnicity as a Hispanic or Latino. The second part asks the respondent to identify his or her race or races. Provided below is an example of the questions.

The ethnicity question is: What is this person's ethnicity?

- *Hispanic or Latino*
- *Not Hispanic or Latino*

The race question is: What is this person's race? Mark one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

- *White*
- *Black or African American*
- *Asian*
- *American Indian or Alaska Native*
- *Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander*

The WDE will be holding two WEN video training sessions to review the reporting and collecting requirements in detail as well as provide an open discussion of the implementation of this guidance within your district

The sessions are scheduled for:

- Tuesday February 24th 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Thursday February 26th 9:30am to 11:30am

Please contact your local WEN video coordinator if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

For additional information, federal guidance can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/index.html>

Also, a guide published by the National Forum on Education Statistics can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008802>

If you have any questions about the new guidance, please contact Shannon Cranmore at 307-777-6245 or scanm@educ.state.wy.us

If you have questions about if your student information system will be ready for this implementation, please contact Shadd Schutte at 307-777-3656 or sschut@educ.state.wy.us

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