

1500 E. 128<sup>th</sup> Ave., Thornton, CO 80241

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Every school district in Colorado is required to report to the Colorado Department of Education each year student data by race and ethnicity categories that are set by the federal government. The Colorado Department of Education does not report individual student data to the federal government, but does report the total number of students in various categories in each school. These reports help us keep track of changes in student enrollments and ensure that all students receive the educational programs and services to which they are entitled.

The federal government recently changed the reporting categories for student data to more accurately reflect the diversity of the country's present population. Under the new system, you will now be asked to indicate both the ethnicity and the racial categories for your children.

Ethnicity and race are often used interchangeably although such use is incorrect and often results in confusion. An ethnic group is defined as a social group with a shared history, sense of identity, geography and cultural roots which may occur despite racial difference. Race is a distinct human type based on inherited physical characteristics. Given these definitions, the information will be gathered by asking two questions: ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino, not Hispanic/Latino (the definition of Hispanic/Latino is a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); which of the following groups describe your race? (Choose one or more) American Indian/Alaskan native, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or white.

To update the racial/ethnic data for your child, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the District's Central Enrollment Office or your child's school. The single race/ethnicity category that is currently on file has been provided for your convenience. If we do not hear back from you, we will continue to report based on this data, or if necessary an observer will identify the categories for you.

It is important to note that the provided information will be maintained in the student's records, but will not be reported to any federal agency in a way that identifies a child or a parent. Nor will this information be released to other parties, as it is protected by the Federal Education Records and Privacy Act. It will not be used to discriminate against anyone, or be used to determine immigration status, or to penalize the students, parents or staff in any way.

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (street) \_\_\_\_\_

(city) \_\_\_\_\_

(state) \_\_\_\_\_

(zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

Note that changes to the reporting for Hispanics and Asians have been made. Hispanics must report race in addition to ethnicity. Asians can choose from two categories- Asian, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

1. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic/Latino origin (*choose only one*)?
  - No, not **Hispanic/ Latino**
  - Yes, **Hispanic/ Latino** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**You must answer both part 1 and part 2 questions.** Part 1 question is about ethnicity, not race. No matter what you selected above, please continue to answer the following by selecting one or more races from five racial groups.

2. Which of the following groups describe your 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 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

*Failure to answer both questions will result in use of prior racial/ ethnic data or an observer identifying for you.*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: The United States Department of Education has directed how various combinations of race/ethnicity are to be reported. All persons identifying Hispanic/ Latino/a will be reported as 'Hispanic'. Non-Hispanic persons who identify with a single race will be reported within the specified category. Non-Hispanic persons who identify with multiple races will be reported within 'Two or more races'.*