

## How can you self-identify?

Parents and students aged 18 or older are able to self-identify on the student registration form they receive at the beginning of each school year. The form includes the following section for those choosing to self-identify:

### VOLUNTARY NATIVE, MÉTIS AND INUIT SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Proof of address received: Yes  No   
(to be completed by school)

All parents/guardians of aboriginal students, and students where they are 18 years or older, have the right to voluntarily self-identify. By self-identifying, you help us to monitor the success of the programs and services we offer, and identify ways we can support aboriginal students so that they meet with success. (Please see Board Policy No. ES-3.13, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Voluntary Self-Identification, for additional information.)

To be completed by parents or students over age 18:

#### Are you a student of Aboriginal ancestry?

Yes  No  First Nation  Metis  Inuit

If **YES**, please identify yourself as:

Native student living on Reserve

Alderville \_\_\_ Curve Lake \_\_\_ Hiawatha \_\_\_

Native student living off Reserve

## Would you like more information?

For more information on the self-identification policy for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, please contact the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's Communications Office at 705-742-9773 or toll-free at 877-741-4577, ext. 2001.



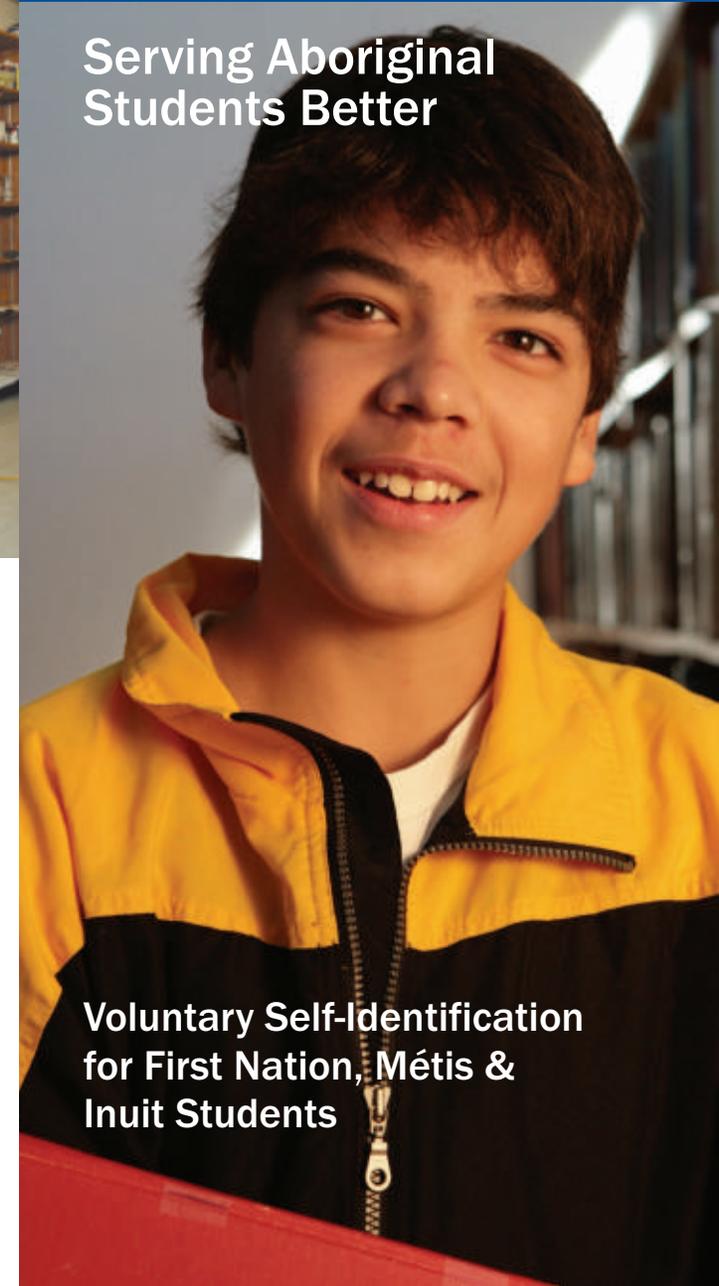
KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board  
1994 Fisher Drive, PO Box 719  
Peterborough, ON K9J 7A1  
705-742-9773 or toll-free 1-877-741-4577  
www.kprschools.ca  
E-mail: info@kprdsb.ca



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## Serving Aboriginal Students Better



## Voluntary Self-Identification for First Nation, Métis & Inuit Students

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board is committed to helping all students succeed in learning and in life. We want to improve our education programs and services by ensuring we are meeting the unique strengths and needs of all students, including those with First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry.

If you or your children are of aboriginal ancestry, we encourage you to consider participating in our voluntary self-identification program when registered at school.

### Why should you participate?

Kawartha Pine Ridge has been working with our local aboriginal community leaders to plan and implement a new policy on voluntary self-identification. Participation is truly voluntary. It is up to parents, and students aged 18 or older, to decide whether they wish to identify themselves as having First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry.

We encourage members of our aboriginal community to participate in this voluntary opportunity for self-identification, for several reasons. By self-identifying, you will help us to monitor our aboriginal students' success. We will be able to measure whether the programs we offer are meeting the educational needs of our aboriginal students. We want to know whether we are doing everything we can to support and encourage Native students in their education. This will help us to better design our educational programs and services, to ensure First Nation, Métis and Inuit students have the opportunities and resources they need to accomplish their educational goals.

### What are our guiding principles?

We believe that we must:

- protect the rights of aboriginal students
- respect the privacy and dignity of all students and their families
- encourage all students to reach their full potential in a safe, supportive learning environment
- be trustworthy in how we use the information provided
- use that information only for the benefit of students, by ensuring our programs meet their unique needs
- identify the resources, including funding and staff, that are needed to provide the best possible education for aboriginal students
- provide evidence when seeking funding and resources from the Ministry of Education to better serve our aboriginal students
- improve the achievement levels of all students
- maintain respectful, positive and effective working relationships with the aboriginal community, parents and students, to support student success.

### Is KPR the only board doing this?

We are not the first school board in Ontario to introduce voluntary self-identification. We do have a history of working closely with our local aboriginal leaders to make sure we are doing everything we can to serve our First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. We know that a policy on self-identification in British Columbia has helped school boards to gather evidence and obtain extra provincial funding to meet the needs of self-identified students. The Ministry of Education in Ontario supports a similar approach here.

### How will we use the data?

We will use the data only to improve education. We will gather it to show how aboriginal students are progressing, to pinpoint the areas where they are achieving well, and to identify the programs and services they need to do better.

We will not be releasing any information on individual students. Not only would this be illegal, but we also believe it would be wrong. It is our duty to protect individual students, and to use the information as a whole to provide extra support where needed.

It's important to note the important role that the Board's Advisory Committee on Native Issues will play. The committee will guide us in the most appropriate ways to gather, sort and use the general data, and it will establish the protocols the Board will follow. That committee is made up of representatives of our aboriginal communities in Peterborough and Northumberland Counties and the Municipality of Clarington.

