



FRISCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

April, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff.

The USDE requires all state and local education institutions to collect information on ethnicity and race for students and staff. This information is used for state and federal accountability reporting as well as for reporting to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The federal government has developed a new standard for collecting and reporting this data in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. These reporting categories were used in the 2000 Census. A copy of the final guidance regarding this change has been published in the Federal Register and can be found at

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2007-4/101907c.pdf>

This new standard enables individuals to be identified in both ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category if applicable. In the past, enrollment forms allowed individuals to be identified in only one category.

Beginning with the 2009 – 2010 school year, federal regulations require us to ask the families of newly enrolled students and all returning students to complete a brief form for the purpose of collecting information on the student's ethnicity and race using the new federal standard. **For the first year only, this information will be collected using the current standard as well as the new standard.** Beginning in 2010 – 2011, this information will be collected using the new reporting categories only. More information on these data standards can be found at

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/peims/standards/0910/appf.doc>

Enclosed is the standard form required by the Texas Education Agency for collecting this information. Families will be asked to re-identify their students' information when school begins for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

SPECIAL NOTE: A selection must be designated in BOTH Part 1 and Part 2 of the attached form.

Respectfully,

Frisco ISD Leadership