

Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI)

Information for Parents

Why does Alberta Education want to know if my child is Aboriginal?

This information helps Alberta Education to learn more about Aboriginal student achievement and allocate funding to school boards and to participating accredited funded private schools to improve learning and success for Aboriginal Students. Self-identification is voluntary.

How will my child benefit from answering the voluntary self-identification question?

Knowing how Aboriginal students are doing in school will help us to understand what is working, where additional programs and supports are required, and what changes may be needed to improve the education system.

Does this voluntary identity question apply to First Nations students attending a band operated school?

No. The ALDCI applies only to Aboriginal students attending schools off-reserve in Alberta. Federally funded First Nations students living on reserve, who attend a provincial school or a participating accredited funded private school off-reserve may choose to self-identify as Aboriginal for data collection purposes.

How do I know if my child is First Nations, Non-Status, Métis or Inuit?

Alberta Education does not seek to define Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal identity is best explored and determined by each individual family.

Will anyone else (besides Alberta Education and necessary school personnel) know my children's name, grade or marks?

No. Alberta Education has ensured that individual learners cannot be identified.

Will my child be treated differently if s/he identifies her/himself?

No. Schools must ensure that all children are treated with respect. Your child's personal information is managed and protected by Alberta's privacy laws, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act)*, the *Personal Information and Protection Act (PIPA)*, the *School Act* and the *Student Record Regulation*.

What will the school boards do with the extra funding?

Provincial school boards and participating accredited funded private schools receive a funding allocation to provide supports for Aboriginal programs. School boards and participating accredited private schools will decide how best to spend these resources. Contact your school or school council for more details and/or to find out how you may get involved.

For more information visit

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/fnmi/aldci.aspx> or contact the Aboriginal Policy Branch, Alberta Education at 427-8501 or call toll free by dialing 310-0000.

