

## Information for Parents and School-Age Children

**Part 1 on Questionnaire:** The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires all state and local education institutions to collect data 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).

School district staff and parents or guardians of students enrolling in school are requested to provide this information. If you decline to provide this information, please be aware that the USDE requires school districts to use observer identification as a last resort for collecting the data for federal reporting.

Definitions: Ethnicity deals with background, customs, and language  
Race is color of skin

The reason for the distinction is that Hispanic/Latino is not identified as a race and the prevailing wisdom is that this culture needs the opportunity to be accurately identified.

On **Questionnaire**, if you check **Hispanic** in **Part 1: Ethnicity**, note there is no Mexican or Spanish category in **Part 1: Race**. If your heritage goes back to Spain, Portugal or France, you will need to check white, as this includes Europe. If you can trace your heritage to American Indian or Alaskan Native, please check that box.

**Part 2 on Questionnaire:** The Federal McKinney-Vento Act and Texas state law guarantee that you can enroll in school if you live

- in a shelter (family shelter, domestic violence shelter, youth shelter or transitional living program);
- in a motel, hotel, or weekly-rate housing;
- in a housing or apartment with more than one family because of economic hardship or loss;
- in substandard housing (no electricity, no water, and/or no heat); or
- with friends of family because you are a runaway or unaccompanied youth.

If you live in one of these situations, you do NOT need to provide the following to enroll in or attend school:

- proof of residency,
- immunization records or a TB skin test result,
- birth certificate,
- school records, or
- legal guardianship papers

You may also

- continue to attend the school in which you were last enrolled, even if you have moved away from that school's attendance zone or district;
- receive transportation from your current residence back to our school of origin;
- qualify automatically for child Nutrition Programs (Free and Reduced-Price breakfast, lunch and other district food programs)

**Attached is the Student Ethnicity/Race and Residency Questionnaire for our district. Please fill out and return to your child's campus office. If you have questions about enrolling in school or need assistance with enrolling in school, please contact the campus principal at (806)229-3021.**