



# MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Aboriginal Learners Data Collection Incentive (ALDCI)

### Information for Parents

#### **What is the purpose of the Aboriginal self-identification question in school registration forms?**

The ALDCI was introduced to identify First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students in the province for the purpose of helping to improve education programs and achievement for FNMI learners.

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

This information helps Alberta Education and school authorities to understand FNMI student achievement and is used to determine the FNMI funding allocation provided to school authorities to improve learning outcomes and enhance success for FNMI students. Answering the Aboriginal self-identification question is voluntary.

#### **How will FNMI student data be used?**

Alberta Education and school authorities will use the information to plan program improvements, to make policy and funding decisions, and to measure and report FNMI student achievement. Student achievement measures include student high-school completion rate, drop out rate, transition rate from high-school to post-secondary education, and Provincial Achievement and Diploma examination results. The **results of self-identified FNMI students will be reported in a respectful way that protects the anonymity** of the students.

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

Knowing how FNMI students are doing in school will help Alberta Education and school authorities to understand what programs are working, where additional supports and programs are required, and what changes may be needed to improve the education system for the benefit of FNMI students.

#### **Does this voluntary identification question apply to First Nations schools attending a band operated school?**

No. The ALDCI applies only to First Nation students attending schools off-reserve in Alberta. Some First Nation students living on reserve, attending school off-reserve may choose to self-identify as First Nations for data collection purposes.

#### **How do I know if my child is First Nations, Métis, or Inuit?**

Alberta Education does not define or verify Aboriginal identity. Aboriginal identity is best explored or determined by each individual family.

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

No. Schools must ensure confidentiality of student information is maintained and 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)*, the *Personal Information and Protection Act (PIPA)*, the *School Act*, and the *Student Record Regulation*.

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### **What is the Aboriginal identity question?**

The following question box appears on registration forms for public, separate, francophone, charter and some private schools. Answering the Aboriginal self-identification question is voluntary.

### **Who can I contact to find out more about the ALDCI?**

For the further information about the collect of FNMI student data please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Service Division, Alberta Education, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton Alberta, T5J 4L5, (780)427-8501.