



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# Race and Ethnicity Reporting Updates

2026-2027

# State and Federal Updates for Racial Classifications

## Colorado [SB25-050](#)



- Required by **September 2026**
- Adds category for Middle Eastern, North African, or South Asian

## Federal Statistical Policy ([SPD 15](#))

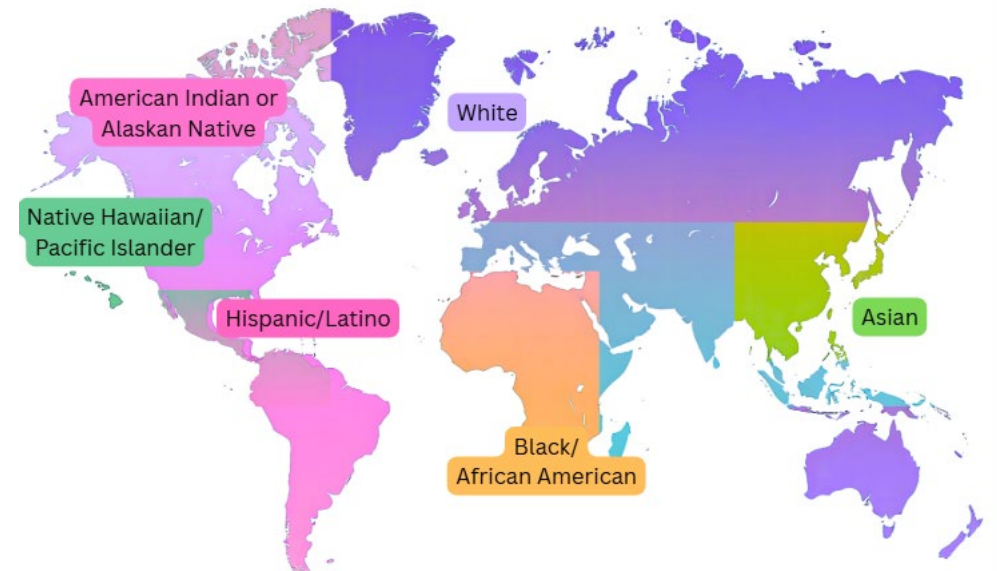


- Required by **March 2029**
- Current 2-part question format becomes a 1-question format only
- Adds racial categories and updates definitions for existing categories

Although these do not completely align,  
CDE has a phased approach to meet both requirements and guidelines

# Current Race/Ethnicity Options for Students and Staff

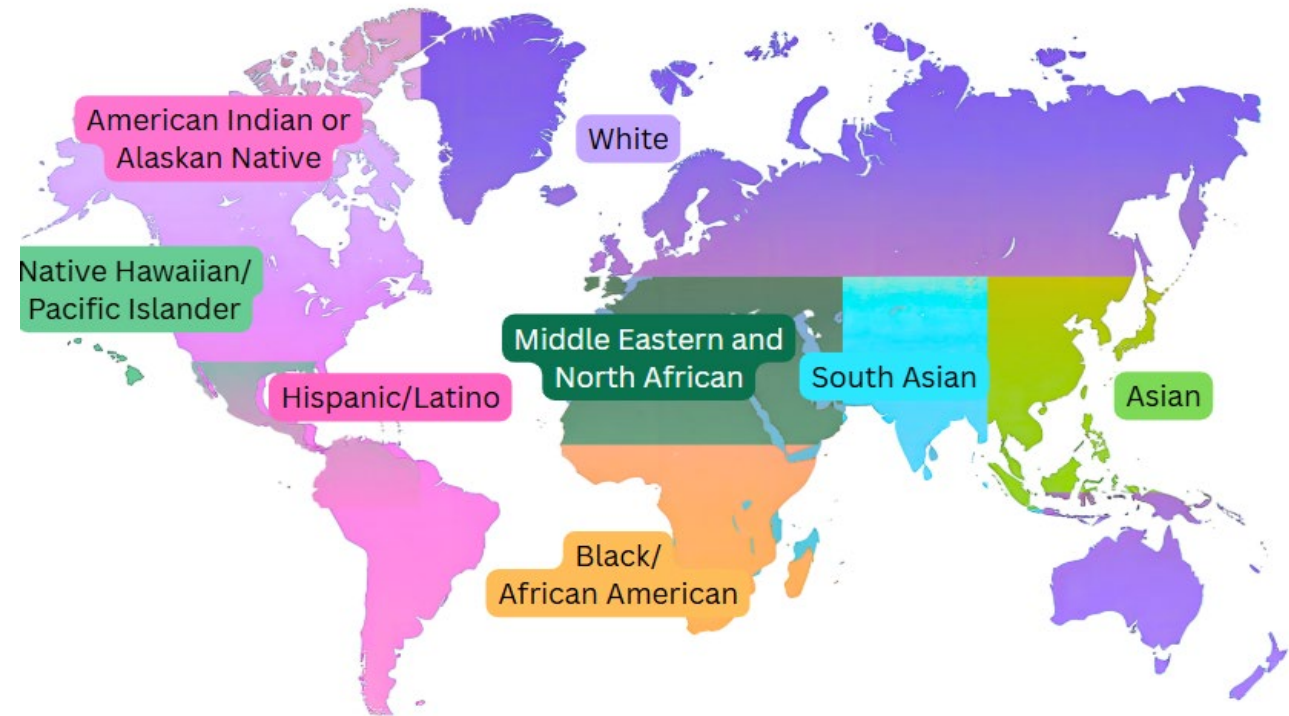
- Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- White
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



And, if Hispanic/Latino is selected, they must also select at least one other Race

# What's the Issue?

- Middle Eastern and Northern Africa was missing
- South Asia was missing
- Hispanic/Latino being required to select additional race(s)



## Phase I: 2026-2027 & 2027-2028

- **Race/Ethnicity Additional Options**
  - South Asian
  - Middle Eastern or North African
- **Business Rule Change**
  - Hispanic/Latino can be reported alone or in combination with other races
- **Reporting Category Updates**
  - Federal Reporting Categories remain the same
  - New State Reporting Category Created
    - Adds South Asian category
    - Adds Middle Eastern or North African category

## Phase 2: 2028-2029

- **Federal Reporting Categories**
  - South Asian solely + Asian solely combined and reported as Asian
  - Multiracial and/or Multiethnicity reported for any 2 or more races/ethnicities
- **State Reporting Categories**
  - Hispanic counted if solely reported as Hispanic and no other race
  - Multiracial and/or Multiethnicity reported for any 2 or more races/ethnicities reported (other than Asian + South Asian)



# Phase I

# 2026-2027 Reporting Changes

## FROM Reporting:

**First:** Hispanic/Latino (yes/no)

**Then,** one or more:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

## TO Reporting (one or more):

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- **South Asian (NEW)**
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- **Middle Eastern or North African (NEW)**
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

# Collection File Layout Impacts

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## Interchange Files

- Special Education IEP
- Staff
- Student

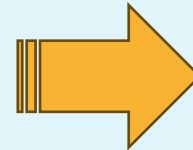
## Periodic Files

- Designated Agency
- Kindergarten School Readiness
- READ collections
- Student Restraint and Seclusion
- WIDA Access SBD

# 2026-2027 File Layout Changes

## Current File Layout

Field	Length
Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino	1
Race: American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Race: Asian	1
Race: Black or African American	1
Race: White	1
Race: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1



## 2026-2027 File Layout

Field	Length
Hispanic or Latino	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	1
Black or African American	1
White	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
<b>South Asian</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	<b>1</b>

- Records reported as Hispanic + Any Race
  - NO CHANGES
  - Categorized as **Hispanic** for State Race/Ethnicity Category
  - Categorized as **Hispanic** for Federal Race/Ethnicity Category
- Records reported as Hispanic Only
  - Categorized as **Hispanic** for State Race/Ethnicity Category
  - Categorized as **Hispanic** for Federal Race/Ethnicity Category
- Edit requiring a 2<sup>nd</sup> race must be selected if Hispanic is reported will be removed

## • Internal Calculated Fields

- Federal Race/Ethnicity
- State Race/Ethnicity

**These are calculated in Data Pipeline based on the fields reported in the interchange files.**

## • Federal Race/Ethnicity

- South Asian added to Asian
- Middle Eastern & Northern African added to White (to match existing definition of white)
- Hispanic = records with Hispanic + any other race; AND records with Hispanic only

## • State Race/Ethnicity

- 1 record per reported category
- Hispanic = records with Hispanic + any other race; AND records with Hispanic only
- Multiracial and/or Multiethnic for those reported as two or more races/ethnicities (other than Hispanic)



# Updated Descriptions

# American Indian or Alaska Native

- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of North, Central, and South America, including, for example,
  - Navajo Nation,
  - Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana,
  - Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government,
  - Nome Eskimo Community,
  - Aztec, and
  - Maya



# Asian



- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of
  - Central or East Asia
  - Southeast Asia, including, for example:
    - Chinese
    - Filipino
    - Vietnamese
    - Korean
    - Japanese

# South Asian (NEW)

- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of South Asia, including, for example:
  - Asian Indian
  - Pakistanis
  - Bangladeshis
  - Nepalese
  - Bhutanese
  - Sri Lankans
  - the Maldivians



# Black or African American



- Individuals with origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including, for example:
  - African American
  - Jamaican
  - Haitian
  - Nigerian
  - Ethiopian
  - and Somali

# Hispanic or Latino



- Includes individuals of
  - Mexican
  - Puerto Rican
  - Salvadoran
  - Cuban, Dominican
  - Guatemalan
  - other Central or South American or Spanish culture or origin

# Middle Eastern or North African (NEW)

- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of the Middle East or North Africa, including, for example:
  - Lebanese
  - Iranian
  - Egyptian
  - Syrian
  - Iraqi
  - and Israeli



# Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander



- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of
  - Hawaii,
  - Guam,
  - Samoa,
  - or other Pacific Islands, including, for example:
    - Native Hawaiian
    - Samoan
    - Chamorro
    - Tongan
    - Fijian
    - and Marshallese

# White

- Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, including, for example:
  - English
  - German
  - Irish
  - Italian
  - Polish
  - and Scottish

