COLORADO
Department of Education

Race and Ethnicity Reporting Updates

Phase I, Phase II, & Updated Race and Ethnicity Descriptions

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

Phase I: 2026-2027 & 2027-2028

- **Race/Ethnicity Additional Categories**
  - 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 II: 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 reported (other than Asian + South Asian)
- **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



Phase I: 2026-2027 & 2027-2028

LEA Forms (updates for state requirements)

- To meet SB5-050 requirements, starting on Sept. 1, 2026 - all parent-, student- and staff-facing information collection forms must include two new options:
  - South Asian
  - Middle Eastern or North African

- While LEAs will not have to retroactively collect this information, the parent-, student- and staff-facing information collection forms must be reviewed and updated before Sept. 1.

Reporting to CDE Data Pipeline Updates

- Interchange and Periodic File Changes:
  - Added Race/Ethnicity Fields
    - South Asian
    - Middle Eastern or North African

- Business Rule Change:
  - Hispanic/Latino can be reported alone; no other race required to be selected

Collection File Layout Impacts

Interchange Files

- Special Education IEP
- Staff
- Student

Periodic Files

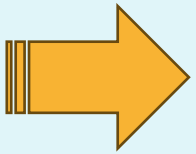
- Designated Agency
- Kindergarten School Readiness
- READ collections
- Student Restraint and Seclusion
- WIDA Access SBD

These updates start in the 2026-2027 collection cycle to align the best with the September 1st date

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
South Asian	**1**
Middle Eastern or North African	**1**

- 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 2nd 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)

2026-2027 Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories and Education Statistics Reporting Student Groups

Hispanic or Latino?	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	South Asian	Black	White	Middle Eastern or North African	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Federal Race/Ethnicity Category
✓ YES	Any single race or combination of races							Hispanic or Latino
✓ No	✓ YES							American Indian or Alaska Native
✓ No		✓ YES	*yes/no*					Asian
✓ No		*yes/no*	✓ YES					Asian
✓ No				✓ YES				Black or African American
✓ No					✓ YES			White
✓ No						✓ YES		White
✓ No							✓ YES	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
✓ No	Any combination of races but not 'Hispanic or Latino' or students only 'Asian and South Asian'							Two or More Races

2026-2027 State Race and Ethnicity Categories

Hispanic or Latino?	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	South Asian	Black	White	Middle Eastern or North African	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	State Race/Ethnicity Category
✓ No	✓ YES							American Indian or Alaska Native
✓ No		✓ YES	✓ No					Asian
✓ No		✓ No	✓ YES					South Asian
✓ No		✓ YES	✓ YES					Asian and South Asian
✓ No				✓ YES				Black or African American
✓ YES	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	Hispanic or Latino
✓ YES	Any single race or combination of races							Hispanic or Latino in Combination
✓ No						✓ YES		Middle Eastern or North African
✓ No					✓ YES			White
✓ No							✓ YES	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
✓ No	Any combination of races but not 'Hispanic or Latino' or students only 'Asian and South Asian'							Multiracial and/or Multiethnic

Summary of Timeline for 2026-2027 requirements

CDE

- **July 15, 2026**
  - CDE updates data file layouts to include fields:
    - South Asian
    - Middle Eastern or North African
  - Student Demographic file is first to be updated
- **Throughout 2026-2027**
  - Interchanges, Periodic files and Snapshots all updated prior to opening for LEAs in Data Pipeline

LEAs

- **July 15, 2026**
  - LEA data systems updates to include fields:
    - South Asian
    - Middle Eastern or North African
  - LEAs able to upload Student Demographic File with updated layout
- **September 1, 2026**
  - LEA forms (with race/ethnicity) required to be updated to include as options:
    - South Asian
    - Middle Eastern or North African



Phase II: 2028-2029
(optional during Phase I)

LEA Forms *(updates for federal requirements)*

- Remove the question “Are you Hispanic or Latino”

- Keep the question ‘What is your race? Select all that apply” and have all race/ethnicities with full descriptions for each:
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - South Asian
  - Black or African American
  - White
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - Middle Eastern or North African

2028-2029 Data Pipeline Reporting Updates

- No changes to Interchange or Periodic data files

Hispanic or Latino Category

State and Federal Category

- Records reported as Hispanic + Any Race
  - Categorized as **Multiracial and/or Multiethnic**
- Records reported as Hispanic Only
  - Categorized as **Hispanic or Latino**

- **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 or Northern African categorized as Middle Eastern or Northern African
  - Hispanic = records with Hispanic only

- **State Race/Ethnicity**
  - South Asian categorized as South Asian
  - Middle Eastern or Northern African categorized as Middle Eastern or Northern African
  - Hispanic = records with Hispanic only

2028-2029 Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories

Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	South Asian	Black	White	Middle Eastern or North African	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		Federal Race/Ethnicity Category
✓ YES	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	→	Hispanic or Latino
	✓ YES							→	American Indian or Alaska Native
		✓ YES	*yes/no*					→	Asian
		yes/no	✓ YES					→	Asian
				✓ YES				→	Black or African American
					✓ YES			→	White
						✓ YES		→	Middle Eastern or North African
							✓ YES	→	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Any combination of races/ethnicities but not students only reported as both 'Asian and South Asian'								→	Multiracial and/or Multiethnic

2028-2029 State Race and Ethnicity Categories and Education Statistics Reporting Student Groups

Hispanic or Latino?	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	South Asian	Black	White	Middle Eastern or North African	Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		State Race/Ethnicity Category
	✓ YES							→	American Indian or Alaska Native
		✓ YES	✓ No					→	Asian
		✓ No	✓ YES					→	South Asian
		✓ YES	✓ YES					→	Asian and South Asian
				✓ YES				→	Black or African American
✓ YES	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	✓ No	→	Hispanic or Latino
						✓ YES		→	Middle Eastern or North African
					✓ YES			→	White
							✓ YES	→	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Any combination of races/ethnicities but not students only reported as both 'Asian and South Asian'								→	Multiracial and/or Multiethnic



Race and Ethnicity 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



Stay Updated:
Race and Ethnicity Field Updates