



Parent/Guardian FAQ: Race/Ethnicity Student Data

A student's race/ethnicity is included in data collected by school districts and reported to the Colorado Department of Education through annual required state and federal data reporting.

Recent federal and state policy updates, ([Colorado SB25-050](#) and [Federal SPD 15](#)) have changed schools and LEAs collect race and ethnicity information for students.

Student Form Updates

Parents/guardians now have the option to designate their child's race as South Asian and/or Middle Eastern or North African, in addition to the existing categories. A full list of available options and their definitions is provided below.

- **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, and 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, and 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, and 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.



Frequently Asked Questions:

1) How should my child be reported if they are multiple races?

- You may select multiple races for your child on the provided form by your district or school.

2) Where will this data be sent?

- For school years **2026-2027 and 2027-2028**, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will continue to receive an aggregate count of students by the 7 categories of:
 - (1) Hispanic/Latino of any race; and, for individuals who are non-Hispanic/Latino only
 - (2) American Indian or Alaska Native,
 - (3) Asian,
 - (4) Black or African American,
 - (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
 - (6) White
 - (7) Two or More Races (not including Hispanic/Latino)
- Starting in **2028-2029**, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will receive an aggregate count of students by the 8 categories of:
 - (1) Hispanic/Latino only,
 - (2) American Indian or Alaska Native,
 - (3) Asian,
 - (4) Black or African American,
 - (5) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
 - (6) Middle Eastern or North African,
 - (7) White,
 - (8) Multiracial and/or Multiethnic

3) If my child is Hispanic, and is marked as Hispanic, do I continue to also have to provide an additional race?

- Providing an additional race is optional through the 2027–2028 school year and may depend on your school or district's requirement.
- For school years **2026-2027 and 2027-2028**, students listed as Hispanic/Latino, and any additional race(s) will continue to be reported to the USDE as Hispanic/Latino. Students reported as only Hispanic/Latino will also be reported in aggregate to the USDE as Hispanic/Latino.
- Starting in **2028-2029**, if your child is reported as Hispanic/Latino AND another race, they will be reported in aggregate to the USDE as the updated category of Multiracial/Multiethnic.



4) If my child is graduating, why should I update his/her race or ethnicity?

- Updating the ethnicity and racial category for your student is not mandated or required if your district has their race and ethnicity from a prior year and the new categories are not applicable. However, for more accurate reporting and a better portrayal of the student population in your child's school, you will have the opportunity to update their race and ethnicity.

5) How will this new data be used by CDE?

- For data analysis and reporting purposes. Colorado will have the following categories in addition to the Federal reporting categories listed above for analysis and reporting purposes:
 - For school years **2026-2027 and 2027-2028**:
 - (1) Hispanic/Latino only,
 - (2) Hispanic/Latino in combination (with other race(s)),
 - (3) American Indian or Alaska Native,
 - (4) Asian,
 - (5) South Asian,
 - (6) Black or African American,
 - (7) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
 - (8) Middle Eastern or North African,
 - (9) White
 - (10) Two or More Races
 - Starting in **2028-2029**:
 - (1) Hispanic/Latino only,
 - (2) American Indian or Alaska Native,
 - (3) Asian,
 - (4) South Asian,
 - (5) Asian and South Asian,
 - (6) Black or African American,
 - (7) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,
 - (8) Middle Eastern or North African,
 - (9) White
 - (10) Multiracial and/or Multiethnic

6) What is the intent and purpose of collecting this data?

- For reporting and portraying the student and staff population in Colorado more accurately to the USDE as well as in statewide reports.

7) Will this impact the immigrant status for any student or staff?

- No, this data will not be used or intended to be used for this purpose.



8) What are the benefits of providing or updating my student's race and ethnicity?

- The benefit will be more accurate reporting and a better portrayal of the student population in your child's school by your district and ultimately by the state.

9) Will this data be used for discrimination?

- No. This data will be used only for informational purposes and will not be used against any student.

10) When will I have to provide the race and ethnicity of my child/children?

- Districts are required to report the updated race and ethnicity data for their students at the beginning of the school year for 2026-2027. You will need to contact your district to determine when they are requiring this information from the parents to meet THIS deadline.

11) If I miss the opportunity to update the race or ethnicity at enrollment, can I provide the information later in the school year?

- You will need to contact your district or school for the particulars, but you should be able to update your child's race and ethnicity at any time during the school year.