



Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI): Information for School Authorities

What is the Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI)?

Alberta Education's Aboriginal Learner Data Collection Initiative (ALDCI) helps to determine the number of First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) learners in provincial school authorities through voluntary self-identification during the student registration process in public, separate, Francophone, charter and Level 2 accredited, funded private school authorities. This information helps Alberta Education and school authorities to learn more about FNMI student achievement and is used to determine the FNMI funding allocation provided to school authorities. Student achievement measures include high school completion rates, dropout rates, transition rates from high school to post-secondary education, and results on provincial achievement tests and diploma exams. ***The choice for an Aboriginal learner to provide this information is voluntary.***

What is the Aboriginal identity question?

The parameters in which the Aboriginal self-identification question was formed relate directly to the *Constitution Act, 1982*, section 35(2), in that "Aboriginal peoples" include "Indian, Inuit and Métis."

The Aboriginal identity question for **school boards** (public, separate, Francophone and charter) reads as follows:

If you wish to declare that you are an Aboriginal person, please specify:

Status Indian/First Nations

Non-Status Indian/First Nations

Métis

Inuit

Alberta Education is collecting this personal information pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act as the information relates directly to and is necessary to meet its mandate and responsibilities to measure system effectiveness over time and develop policies, programs and services to improve Aboriginal learner success. Alberta school boards are also collecting this information pursuant to the same section in conjunction with section 2(1)(t) of the Student Record Regulation and for the same purposes. This information will also be used to determine the provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit Funding Allocation provided to school authorities.

For further information or if you have questions regarding the collection activity, please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division, Alberta Education, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB, T5J 4L5, (780) 427-8501. If you have questions regarding the collection activity by the XYZ school board, please contact the XYZ School Board Superintendent at... (insert contact information)

**** Please note: Level 2 accredited funded private schools must use a different question (included in the following pages).***

Is it mandatory for learners to self-identify?

No. It is mandatory that the K-12 registration/application forms *include* the Aboriginal identity question; however, answering the question is not mandatory. Self-identification is voluntary and will not require verification.

How are schools to submit the information to Alberta Education?

Information is to be provided to Alberta Education by each school authority through the regular SIS submission of registrations made through the PASI Prep Program.

There are four Aboriginal learner self-identification codes:

- Code 331 Aboriginal Learner - Status Indian/First Nations
- Code 332 Aboriginal Learner – Non Status Indian/First Nations
- Code 333 Aboriginal Learner – Métis
- Code 334 Aboriginal Learner – Inuit

There is a separate and distinct code (Code 330*), which is not linked to the ALDCI, to identify federally funded First Nations students who live on reserve but attend a provincially funded or private school off-reserve.

*Status First Nations students living on reserve, who attend a provincial or private school off reserve under a tuition agreement, may choose to self-identify for data collection purposes, and may have two codes (both 331 and 330). Both these codes may be entered in SIS for these students. Please refer to Section 1.11 of the Alberta Education [Funding Manual for School Authorities](#) for more information.

If a student answers the Aboriginal identity question on a registration form indicating that he/she is Aboriginal, will they always be counted as being Aboriginal?

Students who choose to self-identify as FNMI will be included in FNMI data within the current year and in all prior years. Future years will be based on annual verification processes in place within school jurisdictions that allow all FNMI students/parents an opportunity to verify, change or remove their current year status if they choose.

How should schools conduct the annual verification of the Aboriginal identifier?

School authorities and schools are responsible to ensure that students and parents are provided with an opportunity to verify the demographic information on the student record annually. This may be done in a variety of ways, depending on district procedures. Many school authorities send home a pre-populated document with the student's information as it appears on file, including their response to the FNMI self-identification question. Parents are asked to verify and sign this document in September each year. [Alberta Education recommends this process.](#)

In the event that a form is not returned, schools may assume that there is no change to the information from the previous year. If there is a change from the previous year, the student record should reflect that change for the current and future years.

In the case where a self-identification question is checked off in the previous year but is not confirmed in the current year, regardless of the format used, schools may confirm whether the omission is accurate; however, any type of follow up with parents/students must not be perceived as pressuring or influencing families.

How can school authorities use Aboriginal learner information?

School authorities use Aboriginal learner information to determine effectiveness of initiatives for FNMI students, target programs to address student needs, identify promising practices, or to determine professional development needs for teachers. Ideally, school authorities will collaborate with their local FNMI parents and communities to develop policies regarding use and reporting of this data.

Information for Level 2 Accredited Funded Private Schools

Why are some private schools now collecting Aboriginal student data?

In July 2008, some accredited funded private schools became eligible to participate in the ALDCI and receive the FNMI funding allocation. For all Level 2 accredited funded private schools, the following question and notice must appear on the registration form.

Why is there a different question for private school registration forms?

Private schools are “organizations” as defined in Alberta’s *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*, and are subject to the provisions of the *PIPA* when dealing with the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. This is in contrast to public, separate, Francophone, and charter school authorities that are “public bodies” and governed by the provisions of Alberta’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act)*. As such, different requirements apply to accredited funded private schools. The *PIPA* requires organizations such as private schools to give notice as to the purpose for which the information is collected and the contact information of a person who is able to answer questions on behalf of the private school about the collection of the Aboriginal student data.

The *Private Schools Regulation, A.R. 190/2000* was recently amended to deal with this specific collection activity. The requirement to include the self identification question on the registration form is now addressed in section 20(2.1) of the *Private Schools Regulation* and section 2(1)(t) of the *Student Record Regulation, A.R. 225/2006*. The collection activity is therefore done in accordance with section 14(b) of the *PIPA*.

The Aboriginal identity question for Level 2 accredited funded private schools should read as follows:

If you wish to declare that you are an Aboriginal person, please specify:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Status Indian/First Nations	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Status Indian/First Nations	<input type="checkbox"/> Métis	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit
<i>Alberta Education is collecting this personal information pursuant to section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) as the information relates directly to and is necessary to meet its mandate and responsibilities to measure system effectiveness over time and develop policies, programs and services to improve Aboriginal learner success.</i>			
<i>Pursuant to section 13 and 14 of the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA), Level 2 accredited private schools in Alberta are collecting this information in order to develop policies, programs and services to improve Aboriginal learner success. This information will also be used to determine the provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit funding allocation available to the school and will be disclosed to Alberta Education accordingly.</i>			
<i>For further information or if you have questions regarding the collection activity by Alberta Education, please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division, Alberta Education, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton AB, T5J 4L5, (780) 427-8501. If you have questions regarding the collection activity by the XYZ school, please contact the XYZ school’s Principal at... (Insert contact information).</i>			