

# Nottoway County Public Schools

Excellence in Education

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Dear Parents, Guardians or Staff,

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the collection of the data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff. The federal government, which requires all states to collect this information, has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories.

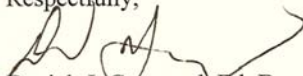
The federal government has developed these new categories in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. This will now enable individuals to be identified in more than one racial category. In the past, forms allowed individual to be identified in only one racial category.

Currently, Nottoway County Public Schools (NCPS) asks families to provide information on the student's race and ethnicity at the time of enrollment. Beginning with Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration in Spring 2010, we will use an updated registration form which includes new questions for ethnicity and race determination. All other students will be given the new registration forms to complete in Fall 2010. The collection of data from staff will occur at a later date.

The data with the new ethnicity and race categories will be used in the same manner that such information is currently used. For example, the federal government uses racial and ethnic data in reporting and analyzing test results, such as the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments. The new categories will replace all existing categories for use in state and federal data collections that include data on ethnicity and race.

The enclosed question-and-answer sheet provides additional information about these changes.

Respectfully,



Daniel J. Grounard, Ed. D.  
Division Superintendent