Race and Ethnicity in Special Education

Data Collection and Data Reporting

This document describes the difference between how race and ethnicity data are collected and how race and ethnicity data are reported (with a focus on special education) at the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Revised data standards for classifying individuals by race and ethnicity were issued by the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997. In 2007, the US Department of Education (USED) issued requirements and guidance to educational institutions on how race and ethnicity data will be collected and reported. For example, race and ethnicity data are used at the state level for calculating and reporting the results of 96 types of significant disproportionality (SD) at each local education agency (LEA) (34 CFR §300.647).

USED's guidance requires using a two-part question for the self-identification of a student's race and ethnicity. One ethnicity (Hispanic/Not Hispanic) and one or more races must be selected. The TEA then collects and stores race and ethnicity data from the two-part question using six data elements—each with a binary value (0=No; 1=Yes). Data from the six data elements are then aggregated and reported using seven categories of race and ethnicity.

OMB/USED Race and **Data Collection Data Reporting Ethnicity Standards Two-Part Question 6 PEIMS Data Elements** 7 Aggregate Categories Q1 Ethnicity (Choose only one) HISPANIC-LATINO-CODE (E1064) Hispanic/Latino (H) · Hispanic or Latino • American Indian or Alaska Native (I) AMERICAN-INDIAN-ALASKA- Not Hispanic or Latino Asian (A) NATIVE-CODE (E1059) Q2 Race (Choose one or more) • Black or African American (B) • ASIAN-CODE (**E1060**) • American Indian or Alaska Native • Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (P) • BLACK-AFRICAN AMERICAN-CODE • White (W) Asian (E1061) Black or African American • NATIVE-HAWAIIAN-PACIFIC-• Two or More Races (T) • Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific ISLANDER-CODE (E1062) Islander WHITE-CODE (E1063) White

How do we get 7 reporting categories from 6 race and ethnicity data elements?

Race and ethnicity data are collected from LEAs using six data elements. The data are stored in the Texas Student Data System/Public Education Information Management System (TSDS/PEIMS) and then processed by the TEA into the seven aggregate race and ethnicity reporting categories using three rules:

- Rule 1: If "Hispanic/Latino" is selected, then student is reported as "H" regardless of the race(s) selected.
- Rule 2: If "Not Hispanic/Latino" is selected and ONLY ONE race is selected, then student is reported as the single race category selected (I, A, B, P, or W).
- Rule 3: If "Not Hispanic/Latino" is selected and TWO OR MORE races are selected, then student is reported in the category "Two or More Races" (T).

Resources:

- Texas Education Data Standards (TEDS) Web-Enabled Data Standards
- IDEA Equity Requirements: Significant Disproportionality (SD)
- Managing an Identity Crisis: Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories
- Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity
- Maintaining, Collecting and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to the U.S. Department of Education