

Ethnicity and Race Federal Definitions

Ethnicity:

Hispanic/Latino

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Race Categories:

American Indian or Alaska Native

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Questions & Answers:

Q: I am Hispanic. Why do I have to answer the second question?

A: One of the major changes is the recognition that members of Hispanic populations can be of different races. The federal government would like to afford Hispanic/Latino populations the opportunity to better describe themselves according to their culture and heritage. So yes, everyone will be asked to select one or more races, even if you have indicated that your ethnicity is Hispanic/Latino.

Q: You can't make me answer both questions, can you?

A: No, but you providing the information would be beneficial for you or your child. The District is required to provide an answer on your behalf, should you choose not to provide such information.

Q: I am Hispanic. If I answer the second question, won't I be reported as a category other than Hispanic?

A: No. Individuals whose **ethnicity** is Hispanic/Latino are reported ONLY in one category--Hispanic/Latino, regardless of their answer to the second question (**race**). However, the federal government requires schools to collect and maintain information on **race** for all individuals, including Hispanics/Latinos.

Additional Resources

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-20613.pdf>
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008802.pdf>

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