

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
HANDBOOK REVISION: Student Race/Ethnicity Identification

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The U.S. Department of Education recently passed regulations concerning the collection of data on student race and ethnicity for all higher education institutions. No later than Fall 2010, institutions will be required to collect race and ethnicity in a two-question format. The first question is whether the respondent is Hispanic/Latino. The second question must ask if the respondent is from one or more races from the following list: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or white.

Collection and reporting of the data using the new format are required for 2010-11. However, under the federal guidelines, institutions may choose to begin collecting and reporting the data using the new format in 2008-09 or 2009-10. In order to report comparable data on race and ethnicity, staff recommends that NSHE institutions begin implementation of the new format simultaneously beginning Fall 2009. The institutions have agreed to this effective date for the collection and reporting of the data as defined by the federal government.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 21, Section 2*) to require that each NSHE institution collect student race and ethnicity information as required by the federal regulations established by the U.S. Department of Education. (See attached Policy Proposal.) The Chancellor's Office shall develop procedures for the uniform collection of student race and ethnicity data. The NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual will specify the uniform format that institutions must follow in the actual collection of the race and ethnicity data from students. (See attached *Policy and Procedures Manual Proposal*.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This item is brought forward at this time in response to the mandate of the U.S. Department of Education.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of the policy will ensure that uniform and comparable data on student race and ethnicity is collected and reported by all NSHE institutions.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward at this time.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Because this mandate for this proposal is from the U.S. Department of Education, no alternative recommendations have been brought forward.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 21, Section 2*
- X Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: *Chapter 6, Section 5*
- Other: _____
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 21, SECTION 2
Race and Ethnicity Identification

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 2. Student Race and Ethnicity Identification

Effective Fall 2009, each NSHE institution must collect student race and ethnicity information as required by federal regulations established by the U.S. Department of Education. The Chancellor's Office shall develop procedures for the uniform collection of student race and ethnicity data. This information will be reported to the National Center for Education Statistics as required by the U.S. Department of Education.

PROPOSED REVISIONS
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES MANUAL
CHAPTER 6, new SECTION 5

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 5. Race and Ethnicity Identification – Collection Procedures

- 1. Each NSHE institution shall collect student race and ethnicity information in compliance with federal reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Education. Institutions must use a two question format to collect race and ethnicity data on all written and on-line applications for admission as follows:***

Question 1: Are you Hispanic or Latino? (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.) *Yes* *No*

Question 2: Please select the racial category or categories with which you most closely identify by placing an “x” in the appropriate box. Check as many as apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native*
- Asian*
- Black or African American*
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander*
- White*

- 2. This format is required to meet the U.S. Department of Education requirements for collection of all student race and ethnicity information and is effective Fall 2009. Admission applications may include definitions for each racial category as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. This does not preclude an institution from collecting additional information.***