

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

**FROM:** Don Young  
Director  
Education Statistics and Analysis Branch

Alayne Bigwin  
Director  
Aboriginal Education Office

**DATE:** June 15, 2009

**SUBJECT:** MISA Memo  
**Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA)**

- Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification

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**Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification:**

In April 2007, the Aboriginal Education Office released the document *“Building Bridges to Success for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students.”* This document provided guidelines to assist all school boards in developing policies governing the collection of voluntary, confidential Aboriginal student self-identification information. As outlined in the “Building Bridges” resource, once school boards have their self-identification policies in place, the ministry will begin the data collection process and is committed to providing public reports every three years on the progress of implementation of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework. This data collection process will enable public reporting, at an aggregate level, on Aboriginal student achievement.

**OnSIS Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Pilot Project**

The Ministry of Education’s Aboriginal Education Office and Education Statistics and Analysis Branch are working with select school boards on a pilot project for the inclusion of Aboriginal student self-identification data in the Ontario School Information System (OnSIS). The purpose of this project is to document effective practices in the collection of Aboriginal student self-identification data, and to identify and resolve any issues prior to province-wide implementation of OnSIS data collection.

The following four school boards were selected to participate in the pilot project:

Rainy River DSB  
Kenora Catholic DSB  
Algoma DSB  
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB

As an outcome of this pilot project, the ministry has documented the processes pilot boards have undertaken to implement their self-identification policies, and this information has been incorporated into the attached Question and Answer document. Sample registration forms used by the pilot boards to collect Aboriginal student self-identification are also attached.

For October 2009-10 we will expand the OnSIS data collection from the four pilot boards to include those school boards with Aboriginal student self-identification policies in place. Further details will be provided through an OnSIS operational note.

We look forward to working with you as we move towards full implementation of this initiative.

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Don Young  
Director  
Education Statistics and Analysis Branch

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