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Tyrrell County Public Schools

P.O. Box 328 - Columbia, N.C. 27925

January 28, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The U.S. Department of Education has issued new guidelines regarding race and ethnicity collections for students and staff in public schools for all states. The categories used to report ethnicity and race were developed by the federal government to give a better snapshot of the ethnic and racial diversity of our nation.

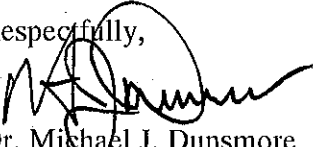
In the past, student and staff identification was limited to only one choice of race and ethnicity. Beginning this school year, students and staff will now be able to identify with racial classifications of more than one category.

Although Tyrrell County Schools used to ask for race and ethnicity information upon enrollment, this school year, current and newly enrolled students will be asked to update their race and ethnicity. **Please complete the reverse side of this correspondence and send it to school with your child, on or before Thursday February 4th. Forms will be collected by the homeroom teacher.**

Race and Ethnicity data will continue to be used by the federal government in the same manner as it was in the past. The only change will be from the old categories to the new categories for race and ethnicity.

If you have any questions regarding the process of collection or review of race and ethnicity, please visit the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's website at <http://dpi.state.nc.us/data/management/raceethnicity/faqs>.

Respectfully,


Dr. Michael J. Dunsmore
Superintendent

STUDENT ETHNICITY AND RACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

Name (First)

Name (Last)

Birth date (Month, Day, Year)

School:

Background:

Race/ethnicity is no longer a single characteristic describing a student. Students will now be identified as having two characteristics, *both* an ethnicity and one or more races.

All students must be given the opportunity to re-identify. A specific set of students are required to go through the re-identification process. This includes any student on file with the following race or ethnicity:

- Hispanic/Latino, • Asian/Pacific Islander or • “Multi-racial*”.

*Multi-racial is no longer a valid identification as individuals will be able to select more than one racial category.

North Carolina state policy indicates that students age 10 and above may self-identify.

Privacy Information:

The re-identification of all students and staff is required by Federal Register Doc E7-20613 effective December 3, 2007, which requires maintenance, collection, and reporting of ethnic data to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). Reporting race and ethnicity data to the USDE is required as a part of accountability reports and allows states to request federal funding.

Individual student and staff member records are protected by the Federal Education Records and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA’s protection of student and staff member records remains intact. FERPA does not designate race and ethnicity as directory information, and race and ethnicity have the same protection as any other non-directory information in a student’s education record or staff member’s record.

Specific Instructions: The two questions below are designated to identify your ethnicity and race of your *child*.
Regardless of your answer to question 1, go to and complete question 2.

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.

<u>RACIAL CATEGORY</u> <i>SELECT ONE OR MORE</i>	<u>DEFINITION OF CATEGORY</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
<input type="checkbox"/> White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa