



# POLICY

SO-16

## VOLUNTARY INDIGENOUS SELF-IDENTIFICATION

<b>Superintendent Responsible:</b> Superintendent of Education, Indigenous Education	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b> 2020/02/24
<b>Last Updated:</b> 2023/02/27	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 2026/02/27

### Objective:

To recognize that all First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students have the right to self-identify to receive improved access to services and instructional supports.

### Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) believes in establishing strong partnerships with Indigenous families, organizations and communities both on and off-reserve, First Nation governments, and Indigenous Services Canada with a goal to improve student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being and belonging for all FNMI students.

Grand Erie is required, by the Ministry of Education, to collect data on FNMI student achievement to determine if programs currently delivered are successful and to provide information for the development of future programs and courses to better meet the needs of FNMI students. In order to collect this data, ~~the~~ Grand Erie needs to ensure that all parent(s)/caregiver(s) for FNMI student(s) under the age of 18 and student(s) over the age of 18 have the opportunity to voluntarily self-identify as Indigenous FNMI. The data collected will be shared with the schools, Board of Trustees, and the Ministry of Education in order to assess the progress in improving FNMI student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being and belonging.

### Reference(s):

- Voluntary Indigenous Self-Identification Procedure (SO-016)
- [Constitution Act, 1982, Sections 35\(2\)](#)
- [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.31](#)
- ~~FNMI Framework~~ [Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework](#)
- [Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56](#)
- Ontario Student Records Procedure (SO-104)