

March 1, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has developed new regulations regarding the mandated collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students. The USDE has developed a new way to collect and report race and ethnicity, which includes new racial and ethnic categories. These new categories were developed in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. This will provide the opportunity for individuals to be more accurately identified in racial and ethnic classifications, and in more than one racial category. In the past, you were allowed to choose only one race for your child. The new categories are defined on the Student Race and Ethnicity Questionnaire.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requiring that the updates be completed by all Connecticut school districts in time for the start of the 2010-11 school year. In order to accomplish this and have staff update the information on our existing students, our district needs to begin collecting the data. At this time, we are asking parents and guardians to complete the Student Race and Ethnicity Questionnaire. You will need to complete a questionnaire for each of your children because the questionnaire will become a permanent part of their cumulative file. The questionnaires will need to be returned to the main office of your child's school by March 31, 2010.

The data collected on the questionnaire will be used, as in the past, for example, to comply with federally-mandated reporting requirements. It is important for you to know that your individual child's data will not be released.

If you have any questions about the collection of race and ethnicity data, please contact your respective building principal or Terri Fiondella in my office at (203) 453-8210.

Thomas A. Forcella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools