

November 2016

Dear parents/guardians,

Acting on its commitment to improve education outcomes among Aboriginal students, the Ministry of Education has identified Aboriginal education as one of its key priorities, with a goal to improve achievement among First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.

As a key step in meeting its goals, the Ministry developed the *Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework* which describes how important it is to have accurate and reliable data in order to assess progress towards this goal of improvement in Aboriginal student achievement, to support improvement planning and accountability, and to inform policy and funding decisions.

As you may know, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board has developed a policy which permits the voluntary self-identification of Aboriginal students. The **Voluntary and Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Policy** was revised during the 2015-2016 school year in with our First Nation Advisory Committee. By collecting information through its policy, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board works to continue to:

- improve programming for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to increase secondary school graduation rates
- request additional funding from the provincial government to support Aboriginal students
- determine future trends to improve the Board's own strategic planning process

We are requesting that all parents/guardians review the information below outlining the purpose of the policy, and complete and return to the school the voluntary and confidential aboriginal self-identification section below. Please note, if you have previously chosen to self-identify your child(ren) through this process or through the school registration process, *it is not necessary to complete this form again.*

Self ID Policy link: <http://www.npsc.ca/media/69709/as-360.pdf>

We are most hopeful that you will consider this policy and return the completed form below. The goal of this initiative is to continue to ensure that learners are prepared for post-secondary studies, and the world of work and to build strong relationships with Aboriginal parents and communities by building a responsive, transparent and accountable policy. If you have questions about the self-identification process, please contact your school principal, or Paula Mann, Superintendent of Education, at 705-472-1201, ext. 2271 or visit the Board website at www.npsc.ca under 'Programs'.

Yours in Catholic education,



Anna Marie Bitonti
Director of Education

Student Name: Last name _____ Given name(s) _____

Aboriginal Ancestry Yes No
Please check the applicable box:

First Nations (on reserve) First Nations (off reserve) Métis Inuit

(reporting this information is voluntary & confidential and will be used for the purpose of enhancing Aboriginal education programs and resources to increase student success)

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and return to your child's school Principal using the attached self-addressed envelope by December 1, 2016. Thank you.