



I Am... Aboriginal

Rainbow District School Board's Self-Identification Process Continues

Rainbow District School Board continues to support and monitor the success of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. As the school year draws to a close, we wanted to provide parents/guardians with an update of what has been happening since the voluntary self-identification process began in June 2007.

Why is it important for parents/guardians and students to participate in the Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self-Identification?

Rainbow District School Board strives to meet the educational needs of all students. By completing the self-identification form, we will be able to learn more about the achievement of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and ensure we meet learning needs.

What types of programs and supports have been put in place in Rainbow Schools to ensure the success of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students?

We have worked diligently to increase the number of Native Studies courses in our secondary schools and Ojibwe language classes/courses in both the elementary and secondary panels. The introduction of Aboriginal Support Workers is another way in which we are ensuring Aboriginal students feel supported in their efforts. As a result of our surveys, we now know that we have First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in all Rainbow Schools.

To foster a better understanding of the histories, cultures and traditions of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit people, teachers have been given opportunities to learn more about each of these unique groups and how to best meet their learning needs. A number of teachers were recently involved in developing their understanding of Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning.

What are the benefits of participating in the Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self-Identification?

By participating in the voluntary self-identification survey, you will enable us to better determine where we need to allocate extra supports and/or programming. It also ensures that all of our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students benefit from the resources, initiatives and projects in place throughout the Board.

**If you have questions about the Voluntary Self-Identification process, please contact: Kathy Dokis- Ranney,
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