

# Policy Questions on the Department of Education's 2007 Guidance on Collecting, Maintaining and Reporting Data by Race or Ethnicity

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## What does the two-part question to be used for collection look like?

There are two different parts to the question, requiring two distinct responses. The first part asks about the broad category of ethnicity, and the second part asks about the more narrow divisions of race. The first part asks the respondent to identify his or her ethnicity as a Hispanic or Latino. The second part asks the respondent to identify his or her race or races. Provided below is an example (see [http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/std1\\_5.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/statprog/2002/std1_5.asp)) of the questions.

The ethnicity question is:

What is this person's ethnicity?

Hispanic or Latino

Not Hispanic or Latino

The race question is:

What is this person's race? Mark one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

White

Black or African American

Asian

American Indian or Alaska Native

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

There is no "multiracial" or "other race" category used when collecting data from individuals using this two-part question for ethnicity and race. However, a respondent may report having more than one race.

## What are the aggregate reporting requirements for elementary and secondary education institutions and agencies?

For Federal reporting requirements aggregate data about all elementary and secondary students will be reported to the Department using one of the seven aggregate reporting categories discussed in the guidance. These reporting categories are --

Hispanic/Latino of any race,  
For individuals who are Non-Hispanic/Latino  
American Indian or Alaska Native  
Asian  
Black or African American  
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
White  
Two or more races

If an individual (or the parent on behalf of the individual) does not complete the two-part question, then the educational institution should take steps to collect and document information that enables the school to include the individual in one of the seven Federal reporting categories. The Department's existing policy of using observer identification in these cases remains unchanged from previous guidance provided by the Department.

For further information, see:

<http://ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/questions.html>