

FROM: MOSIS

TO: Core Data, MOSIS, MOSIS Listserv Subscribers

DATE: February 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories

The U.S. Department of Education requires all states to collect information on the race and ethnicity of public school students and staff. The federal government has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories. The changes should provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. The new data collection format will allow individuals of multiracial background an opportunity to select categories that better represent themselves. It also allows Hispanic populations to more accurately describe themselves, helping the school communities to better serve and support them.

Beginning with the 2010-11 school year (August Cycle), the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will begin collecting the new categories. There are 5 race categories plus the Hispanic ethnicity **that will be required for you to maintain at the local level**. A full list of the possible combinations of the new race and ethnicity codes can be found on page 42 of the federal guide referenced below.

Our department is required to report the 7 codes listed below to the U.S. Department of Education. These include:

Asian  
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
American Indian or Alaska Native  
Black or African American  
White  
Hispanic  
Multi-racial

For additional information here is a link to the federal guide for implementing these new categories:

Managing an Identity Crisis: Forum Guide to Implementing New Federal Race and Ethnicity Categories <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008802.pdf>

If you would like a copy of this guide by mail please email your name and address to [webreplyimprcd@dese.mo.gov](mailto:webreplyimprcd@dese.mo.gov)