



Galena Park Independent School District

14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, Texas 77015 (832) 386-1241

Wanna Giacona

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services

Dear New GPISD Employee:

During the 2009-2010 school year the United States Department of Education (USDE) issued new guidelines regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students and staff. The Federal Government now requires that all state and local education institutions collect and maintain information on ethnicity and race for students and staff. This information shall be used for state and federal accountability reporting, as well as for reporting to the Office of Civil Right (OCR) and the Equality Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

This new standard for collecting and reporting this data has been developed in order to provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. These reporting categories were used in the 2000 Census. It allows for individuals to be identified in both ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category if applicable. In the past, individuals could only select one category.

As a result of this USDE requirement, you are being asked to complete this federally mandated survey on race and ethnicity. The completion of the survey should only take a couple minutes to complete.

Please understand that background information (race options) are dictated by the Federal Government and are not District choices.

Thank you for giving your attention to this important federally mandated task. Should you have any questions please contact either Oralia Cantu at 832-386-1207 or Marissa Guajardo at 832-386-1229.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wanna Giacona'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Wanna Giacona

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services

Exhibit 1

**Texas Education Agency
Texas Public School Student/Staff Ethnicity and Race Data Questionnaire**

The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires all state and local education institutions to collect data on ethnicity and race for students and staff. This information is used for state and federal accountability reporting as well as for reporting to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

School district staff and parents or guardians of students enrolling in school are requested to provide this information. If you decline to provide this information, please be aware that the USDE requires school districts to use observer identification as a last resort for collecting the data for federal reporting.

Please answer both parts of the following questions on the student's or staff member's ethnicity and race. *United States Federal Register (71 FR 44866)*

Part 1. Ethnicity: Is the person Hispanic/Latino? (Choose only one)

- Hispanic/Latino** - A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- Not Hispanic/Latino**

Part 2. Race: What is the person's race? (Choose one or more)

- American Indian or Alaska Native** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Asian** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Black or African American** - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- White** - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Student/Staff Name (please print)

(Parent/Guardian)/(Staff) Signature

Student/Staff Identification Number

Date

Texas Education Agency – March 2010