

This enews was also sent last week. If you have updated your student's information, please disregard. Thank you for your attention.

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you about new guidelines from the U. S. Department of Education (USDE) regarding the collection of data on race and ethnicity for public school students.

The USDE requires all state and local education institutions to collect information on ethnicity and race for all our students. 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).

The federal government has developed a new standard for collecting and reporting this data 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.

This new standard enables our students to be identified in both ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category if applicable. In the past, enrollment forms allowed students to be identified in only one category.

Beginning with this 2009 – 2010 school year, all families of newly enrolled students and all returning students will complete a brief form to re-identify their student's ethnicity and race using the new federal standard. A separate form must be completed on each student.

There are two methods available for you to re-identify your children. Both are available in English and Spanish. Please use the online form available at

[http://k-12.pisd.edu/Ethnicity\\_Race\\_English](http://k-12.pisd.edu/Ethnicity_Race_English) or  
[http://k-12.pisd.edu/Ethnicity\\_Race\\_Spanish](http://k-12.pisd.edu/Ethnicity_Race_Spanish).

You need your student's ID number and the Vines school code, which is 004. The form takes only a few minutes to complete. You can also access it through parent viewer and through [www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu) where you will find an article on the identification process.

Thank you for helping us collect the data for the new USDE guidelines.

Sarah Watkins  
Principal