

Help Guide for Parents of Hispanic/Latino Students

1. I have answered Hispanic to question 1 and do not believe any of the race categories listed in question 2 applies to my child. Do I have to pick a race category for my child?

The federal government requires an answer to both questions. If you decline to provide race information, school personnel are required to record race information for your child based on observer identification. We strongly encourage you to answer both questions instead of having school personnel answer for you.

2. Why do I have to answer the second question on race when I have already identified my child as Hispanic in the first question?

Hispanics/Latinos are of many different races. Therefore, the federal government requires parents to answer both the ethnicity and race questions. Hispanic/Latino is considered an ethnicity which describes your child's culture and language, while race indicates the geographical origin of your child's ancestors. Please look at the description of each race category to determine which best describes where your child's ancestors came from. For example, some Puerto Ricans may have Spanish ancestry, some have African ancestry and some may have both. (See additional examples below).

3. Why don't I see the additional race category options that appear on the 2010 Census form? For instance, I don't see an "Other" race category to select.

The Census form follows the same 2-question format, but uses a different list of race category options. The federal government established the race category option for use by students and schools and "Other" was not among them.

Additional Examples:

My child is of Mexican heritage and there does not seem to be an appropriate race category to select. Which race category should I choose?

To answer the race question for this student, consider where your child's ancestors came from. Were they indigenous? Did they come from Spain? Did your ancestors reflect a mixture of the two? You would select a race category based on your ancestry. One or more of the race categories need to be selected for each student.

I have Mexican heritage and Mayan ancestry. How do I answer the race question?

The description of the American Indian or Alaskan race category includes descendants of indigenous populations of Mexico. Review the description of each race category to decide which best reflects your child's ancestry, rather than focusing on the label of each race category.

My child's father is Puerto Rican and I am African-American. My child has had no interaction with his father or his father's family and no connection with his Puerto Rican heritage. How should I complete the form?

The federal government is asking people to respond based on how they view themselves. If your child identifies primarily as African-American, you may choose to answer Non-Hispanic to Question 1 and African-American to Question 2 (Race). If the student identifies as both Hispanic and African-American, you may choose to answer Hispanic to Question 1 and African-American to Question 2. Your selection of ethnicity and race categories is a personal decision. Some may choose the race and ethnicity with which they most personally identify, while others may choose to list the races of all their ancestors. The decision is up to you.