



# Olympia School District

1113 Legion Way SE • Olympia, WA 98501 • <http://osd.wednet.edu>

## Board of Directors

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*Student Representative*

William V. Lahmann, Superintendent

March 2010

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian:

Each year, school districts in Washington are required to report student data by ethnicity and race categories to the state's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Ethnicity and race categories used in our district are the same as used in all Washington school districts. They are set by the federal government, the Washington State Legislature, and OSPI. OSPI is required to report the *total* number of students in various categories in each school to the federal government, but it does not report individual student data. These reports help our district and the state keep track of changes in student enrollment and various outcomes (such as graduation rates) to ensure that all students receive the educational programs and services to which they are entitled.

Recently, the federal government and OSPI changed the reporting categories for student ethnic and race data. As a result of the new reporting categories, we need to ask you to identify your child as either Hispanic/Latino or not Hispanic/Latino and by *one or more* racial groups. Washington has 57 racial categories to choose from.

If your family is Asian, you will now be able to list your child as either Chinese, Japanese or belonging to one or more of the other Asian groups. If your family is Native American, you will be able to list your child's tribal affiliation. If one parent identifies with one race and the other parent with another, you will be able to check both races for your child.

Starting in September 2010, all public schools in Washington will need to start using these new categories. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's school by their designated date.

Sincerely,

Bill Lahmann,  
Superintendent

Enclosure