Race and Ethnicity Reporting FAQ's

Has SFUSD's collection of students' race and ethnicity changed?

California and the Federal Government require school districts to collect and report on student (and staff) ethnicity and race in order to qualify for federal funds and enable civil rights monitoring. In 2007 the Federal Government published updated guidelines outlining the need to allow people to report more than one ethnicity and race. In 2009, with the introduction of the CALPADS state reporting application, California brought the state's data collection standards into compliance with federal rules. SFUSD modified its enrollment application to collect the required data. With the deployment of the new student information system, Synergy, the District is reviewing and clarifying data collection and reporting procedures.

How does SFUSD collect and store race and ethnicity information?

The SFUSD Educational Placement Center (EPC) collects race and ethnicity data on the Application Form that parents complete to enroll each child in an SFUSD school. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, the form asks two questions, as described below. These data are then stored in Synergy, SFUSD's student information system.

Questions	Answer Checkbox Options
Q1: Ethnicity -- Is the student Hispanic or Latino?	**Yes**; **No**
Q2: Mark one or more boxes to indicate what you consider your race to be. *The form encourages people to answer this regardless of the answer to the first question.* ***Note**: Through the 2015-2016 school year application, EPC asked parents to mark a "1" next to the student's primary race and an "X" next to additional identified races. In keeping with current state and federal guidelines, these distinctions are not tracked in Synergy and EPC will discontinue this practice going forward.*	**American Indian/Alaska Native**; **Asian Indian**; **Black or African American**; **Cambodian**; **Chinese**; **Filipino**; **Guamanian**; **Hawaiian**; **Japanese**; **Korean**; **Laotian**; **Middle Eastern/ Arabic**; **Other Asian**; **Other Pacific Islanders**; **Samoan**; **Tahitian**; **Vietnamese**; **White**; **Hmong**

How does SFUSD report race and ethnicity data?

SFUSD's Research, Planning & Accountability (RPA) division produces most of the district's data reports. Information Technology (IT) is responsible for CALPADS reporting and the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), and produces other data reports on request. ***In alignment with state and federal guidelines, and unless otherwise noted in a special report, when data is disaggregated by race and ethnicity, it is reported according to the following rules:***

	Input Q1: Hispanic or Latino?	Input Q2: Race checkboxes	Resolved Race/ Ethnicity (on standard RPA and IT/ Synergy reports)	Be Aware
1	Yes	No race selected	Hispanic/ Latino	Hispanic/ Latino is not a race option
2	Yes	One race selected	Hispanic/ Latino	Selected race(s) not reported unless do special report(s)
3	Yes	Two or more races selected	Hispanic/ Latino	
4	No	No race selected	Decline to State	n/a
5	No	One race selected	Resolved race = selected race	n/a
6	No	Two or more races selected	2 or more ***Note***: In some cases*, data roll up to a single ethnic group (e.g., Asian or Pacific Islander).	Selected races not reported unless do special report(s)
7	No Answer	No race selected	Decline to State	n/a
8	No Answer	One race selected	Decline to State	Selected race(s) not reported unless do special report(s)
9	No Answer	Two or more races selected	Decline to State	

Why do some reports indicate different numbers of students of a specific race?

SFUSD's commitment to equity means that we do our best every day for every student regardless of race or ethnicity and that we go above and beyond to close historic achievement gaps. In order to close these equity gaps and better serve students of a specific race or ethnicity, SFUSD departments and other stakeholders (e.g., media) may request reports that track data tied to one or more specific races. In these cases, RPA or IT can run special reports that pull the data from the Question 2 race checkboxes. EPC also pulls similar data when reporting on numbers of enrolled students. These **special single-race reports will indicate a higher number of identified students than the standard RPA or IT data reports in cases 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 above**. Keep this in mind and request a special single race report if data on specific races (e.g., African American or Native American) is important for your purposes.

How can I learn more about this?

Federal and California Race and Ethnicity Categories:
*http://web.sfusd.edu/Services/research_public/rpa_student_enrollment/FCREC.pdf
California Department of Education FAQs: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/dc/es/refaq.asp
Federal Government:
http://www.census.gov/2010census/news/press-kits/age/age.html
https://ask.census.gov/faq.php?id=5000&faqId=191