

Exhibit 3.1 Providing Advance Notice to the Public: An Example from Montgomery County (MD) Public Schools—Continued

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS New Federal Guidelines for Reporting Ethnicity and Race Data for MCPS Staff and Students

Update #1
(April 2008)



Overview

The U.S. Department of Education requires all states to collect information on the race and ethnicity of public school students and staff. The federal government has developed a new way to report ethnicity and race that includes new categories. The changes should provide a more accurate picture of the nation's ethnic and racial diversity. Beginning in the fall of 2008, families of all students will be asked to fill out a brief form to update the reporting of their children's ethnicity and race. Reporting of staff data will occur at a later date.

If I have already provided this information to the school system, why must I provide it again?

In the past, forms for reporting race and ethnicity to the federal government allowed individuals to be identified in only one racial category. The new form enables individuals to be identified in ethnic and racial classifications and in more than one racial category. The federal government is requiring that ethnic and racial information for all students and staff be reported in this new way in order to reflect the nation's diversity more accurately.

How will the information be used?

The data with the new ethnicity/race categories will be used in the same manner that racial/ethnic data are currently used. The new categories will replace the existing categories for use in all state and

federally sponsored statistical data collections that include data on ethnicity or race. Some examples include student record cards and test results.

Who provides the information?

Parents will complete a brief form to identify their children's ethnic and racial identity. Staff members will receive a form to fill out their own information.

When and how will the new information be gathered?

Montgomery County Public Schools will follow the new federal guidelines beginning in the fall of 2008. The new form will be distributed to all schools. The families of newly enrolled students **AND** of all current students will be asked to complete the form and return it to the school. Staff members will be asked to fill out a form at a later time, yet to be determined.

Where can I find more information?

More information is available on the MCPS Web site at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/ethnicityrace