



1. Goals of the Voluntary Confidential Self Identification Process

The Ontario and Aboriginal leaders have identified education as a priority in improving lifelong opportunities for Aboriginal children and youth. Acting on this priority the Ministry of Education has identified Aboriginal Education as a way to address two primary challenges for Aboriginal learners by the year 2010: (a) improve student achievement and (b) to close the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in the areas of literacy, retention of students in school, graduation rates and advancement to post-secondary studies.

The Halton Catholic and Halton District School Boards have established the following goals for the Voluntary, Confidential Self-Identification Process:

- a) provide high-quality, learner-oriented, culturally and historically-relevant teaching and learning experiences for Aboriginal Students
- b) provide learning opportunities that are responsive, flexible and accessible for Aboriginal students
- c) set high expectation for student achievement in supported learning environments
- d) improve the success of Aboriginal students in secondary school courses and programs
- e) improve retention rates for Aboriginal students
- f) improve literacy and numeracy results for students so as to improve EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Offices) scores for Aboriginal students
- g) increase the graduation rates for Aboriginal students
- h) ensure that Aboriginal students are well-prepared for post secondary education or the world of work when they complete their secondary education
- i) promote effective, respectful, Aboriginal student-teacher working relationships

- j) promote effective, respectful, working relationships and partnerships among Aboriginal parents, First Nations communities and other Aboriginal communities.

2. **Guiding Principles**

For this process to be successful, the Guiding Principles must be:

- a) Collaborative
- b) Inclusive
- c) Results orientation
- d) Respect privacy and dignity of students, their families, their cultures and their history
- e) Student orientated
- f) Innovative
- g) Acknowledge diversity
- h) Transparent