**Off camera voices:**
I’m from Seoul, Korea.
I’m African American.
I’m from India.
My dad is black. My Mom is Asian.
I’m white.
I’m from Mexico.
My grandparents came from Africa.
I’m from Russia.
I came from Nigeria.
I’m from Thailand.
I’m Native Alaskan.
I’m from Guam.
I’m from the Philippians.
I’m part Hawaiian and part Asian.
I’m Asian. My Mom is American.
I’m half Filipino and half American.

**Host:**

Our community members, our neighbors, our friends, co-workers, students and teachers represent a variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Hello, I’m Sylvia Jarquin, and I’m here to tell you about a revised form that will allow all of us to more accurately reflect our heritage, specifically how we report our race and ethnicity. This form offers us more racial categories to choose from, giving us a clearer picture or a better snapshot of the demographic make-up of our schools, our county and our country. There are four major changes to the data collection form.

Number one: The form is now in two-parts. The first question asks about your ethnicity, specifically if you are Hispanic or Latino.

The second question asks about race. You now will be able to select one or more races from five racial groups. In the past, you could only select one racial category. Since many Americans are bi-racial or multi-racial, this will help to more accurately report our heritage.

The remaining changes revolve around race and ethnicity terminology.

The ethnic category previously called Hispanic has been changed to Hispanic or Latino. The racial category Asian or Pacific Islander has been divided into two separate categories, which are Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

So when filling out the form, first answer the ethnicity question with a yes or no. Then select one or more races from the following five categories: American Indian or Alaska
Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and/or White.

In my case, as I fill out the form, first I would select “Yes” because I am Latino, and then I would also select my race - - white. It’s that simple.

Another person filling out the form, like a parent or guardian, may answer “No” to the ethnicity question, and then will go on to identify their child as black and Asian and American Indian.

Please know that the information on these forms is completely confidential.

**Interview:**

**Stephanie Williams, MCPS Director**

**Department of Reporting and Regulatory Accountability**

This data collection process is nothing new. We have been collecting race and ethnicity data from students for decades. What we’re rolling out now is an opportunity for families to more accurately reflect their individual background.

**Student Voice 1** – I know people have trouble labeling themselves into one category. This form helps them out.

**Student Voice 2** - -I have a friend who is multi-cultural. This form will really help them be identified.

**Student Voice 3** - - It’s a huge benefit that students can fill out more than 1 race category on these forms.

**Stephanie Williams Interview**

Previously, if families were comprised of more than 1 race, they were in the position of having to select 1 race or another when they indicated their family background on the form. The new form gives everyone the opportunity to reflect multi, bi, or multi-racial families as well as ethnicity and a race if they so choose.

**Host/Narrator:**

How will the information be collected?
Starting this fall, all MCPS parents and guardians will be asked to fill out this new form for each child enrolled in school.

Parents just need to fill out the form, and send it back to their child’s school.

The United Stated Department of Education, along with the Maryland Department of Education is requesting a completed form for every student and school system employee. And since only you truly know your family’s racial and ethnic heritage, we need your help. So please fill out the form and return it to the school.
As in the past, if parents choose not to fill out the form, an administrator from the student’s school will determine the student’s race and ethnicity. But since this may not give us the most accurate data, we really need parents to provide us with this information.

So assist us in developing a more accurate snapshot of our student population. Help us sharpen our focus and celebrate our diversity.
END