

One Box Isn't Enough: Supporting an Accurate and Complete Portrait of Diversity in U.S. Schools

An Effort by MAVIN Foundation's Campus Awareness + Compliance Initiative with Level Playing Field Institute, and in partnership with the Association of MultiEthnic Americans and Hapa Issues Forum



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CACI is a collaboration of:

MAVIN
FOUNDATION



LEVEL PLAYING FIELD
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This effort is in partnership with:

AMEA
Association of MultiEthnic Americans



Welcome to One Box Isn't Enough!

You are now part of a national grassroots effort to secure the right of mixed race students to identify with ALL parts of their heritage. In 1997, as a result of the efforts of the organizations like the Association of MultiEthnic Americans and Hapa Issues Forum, the federal Office of Management & Budget (OMB) instituted policies which for the first time allowed individuals to “mark one or more” races on forms requesting race and ethnicity. Census 2000 was the first large scale opportunity to implement these new guidelines, and almost seven million Americans took advantage of the new format by marking two or more races.

What's the problem?

OMB guidelines included a January, 2003 deadline for all federal agencies to implement the new guidelines. Two years after that deadline has past, one of the largest federal agencies, the Department of Education (DOE), has not done so! Department of Education standards affect over 76 million students, including over 2.5 million students of mixed race who are currently forced to identify inappropriately. The delay in implementing these policies means that schools do not have a clear picture of student diversity on their campuses and are limited in their ability to meet the needs of all students, especially their multiracial students.

What are we doing about it?

To address this issue MAVIN Foundation's Campus Awareness & Compliance Initiative, with Level Playing Field Institute, and in partnership with the Association of MultiEthnic Americans and Hapa Issues Forum, is launching the One Box Isn't Enough initiative (OBIE). We will seek to generate 10,000 comment cards urging the Department of Education to implement OMB guidelines. In order to meet this ambitious goal we need **YOUR** help. Please fill out an OBIE comment card, and urge your friends and family to do so as well. Please distribute this packet of information as widely as possible. If we reach 1000 partners like you, each one only needs to get 10 cards signed for us to reach our goal!

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One Box Isn't Enough: Instruction Sheet

So you've decided to support our effort, now what? Well, here is a step by step guide on what to do next.

Step 1: Print out the comment cards

In this packet you will find a sample sheet of comment cards for the One Box Isn't Enough effort. Just print out as many comment cards as you need (we suggest you begin with five sheets or 20 comment cards). Comment cards do not need to be cut up, it is easiest to use full sheets and place them on a table or a clipboard for people to sign.

Step 2: Find people to sign the comment cards

Anyone who is a resident of the United States can sign a comment card. The minimum information necessary is their full name and a U.S. address. Good places to find people to sign comment cards include: work, school, family and friends. A great way for student groups to collect signatures is by tabling on campus.

Step 3: Ask people to sign comment cards

Here is a handy script that we've found has been very successful:

Intro: "Hello, can you sign a comment card to support the mixed race community?"

If yes: "This is a comment card will be sent to the department of education urging them to implement federal guidelines that allow individuals to mark more than one race on forms."

More info: "The department of education was supposed to have implemented these guidelines almost two years ago, but still have not done so. As a result we are trying to create public pressure on them to comply with federal mandate."

Step 4: Mail the comment cards

Once you have gathered your signatures you can then return the signed comment cards to:

One Box Isn't Enough
C/O MAVIN Foundation
600 1st Ave, Ste 600
Seattle, WA 98115

Have additional questions? Check out the next page for a handy list of commonly asked questions and their answers.

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One Box Isn't Enough: Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to put down my Address?

Yes, the comment cards are being sent to the department of education and they need to verify that you are a U.S. resident in order to count it.

Do I need to put down my email or phone number?

No, but if you would like to be contacted about opportunities to be involved with (participating group) please put them down and we'll contact you.

Why is it important?

Two major reasons, first mixed race people should not be forced to choose one of their heritages when they are asked about their race. Second, many institutions use ethnic and race data to understand the needs of their students. If you are not allowed to identify appropriately the institution has no idea how many mixed race students there are on their campus and can't meet their unique needs.

Need some more answers? Here are a few key facts for you:

- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, released in 1997, require that agencies who collect data on race and ethnicity institute policies which allow individuals to mark more than one race.
- OMB guidelines were instated as a result of a concerted effort on the part of the multiracial community to gain recognition by the federal government.
- All federal programs were instructed to implement guidelines by January of 2003
- As of September of 2004, the Department of Education (DOE) has requested and received several extensions of the OMB deadline and has still has not implemented OMB guidelines.
- Many colleges and universities have put any changes to their race and ethnicity collection methods on hold until the Department of Education releases its guidelines.
- There are over 2.5 million multiracial students enrolled between kindergarten and college in the United States. This data was taken from the US Census and only includes students that identified with more than one race, the true number is probably significantly higher.
- Accurate data collection methods will allow institutions to implement programs which accurately meet the needs of their students.
- This program seeks to generate 10,000 signatures to create public pressure on the department of education to institute OMB guidelines
- Although some schools do allow students to mark more than one race, the vast majority do not and in some cases schools will say they allow students to mark more than one race, but then choose one race for them when they enter information into their databases.

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One Box Isn't Enough: Organizations & Contacts

Campus Awareness & Compliance Initiative

The Campus Awareness + Compliance Initiative (CACI), a MAVIN Foundation project with Level Playing Field Institute, seeks to support the full inclusion of mixed race and transracially adopted students at U.S. colleges and universities. We achieve this mission through training, resources and activist opportunities.

MAVIN Foundation

MAVIN Foundation is a 500-(c)3 nonprofit organization that celebrates innovative projects that celebrate and advocate for mixed race people and families. In cities like Seattle, Sacramento, and San Antonio nearly one in six babies born is multiracial. MAVIN's innovative projects provide a unique forum to increase awareness of the changing face of our multiracial society. For more information, please visit www.mavinfoundation.org.

Level Playing Field Institute

The Level Playing Field Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, based in San Francisco, that promotes innovative approaches to fairness in higher education and workplaces by removing barriers to full participation. They have participated in and funded activist research that explores stereotyping, bias and exclusionary behaviors in the workplace. In addition, their programs bridge resource gaps for talented underrepresented students from secondary through graduate school. For more information, please visit: www.lpfi.org

Association of MultiEthnic Americans

AMEA is an international association of organizations dedicated to advocacy, education and collaboration on behalf of the multiethnic, multiracial and transracial adoption community. For more information, please visit: www.ameasite.org

Hapa Issues Forum (HIF) is a San Francisco based nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Asian Pacific Islanders of mixed heritage through advocacy, education, and research. "Hapa" is a Hawaiian word that literally means "half" and is commonly used to describe an Asian Pacific Islander of mixed heritage. For more information, please visit: www.hif.org

Contact Information:

Alfredo Padilla
Campus Awareness & Compliance Initiative Project Manager
1-888-77MAVIN
206-240-5800
alfredo@mavinfoundation.org
<http://www.mavinfoundation.org>

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ar Secretary Spellings,

1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) instituted new guidelines for the collection of race and ethnicity, which for the first time allowed multiracial individuals to mark more than one race. In its directive, the OMB set a January 2003 deadline for all federal programs to institute the new guidelines. It has been almost two years since this deadline and the Department of Education has yet to institute policies to comply with OMB guidelines. As a result over two million multiracial students nationwide still do not have the opportunity to identify accurately. I urge you to take immediate action to implement OMB guidelines and adopt data collection methods that will allow accurate analysis of the race and ethnicity of students nationwide.

Thank you,

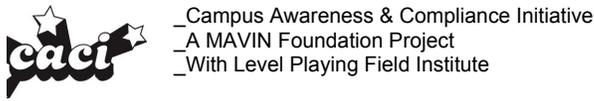
Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



Please do not contact me about events & opportunities

600 1ST Ave, Ste 600, Seattle, WA 98115

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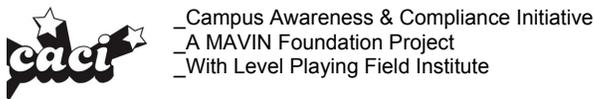
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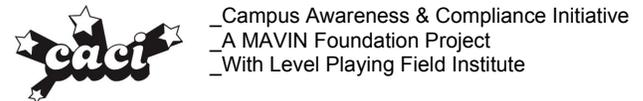
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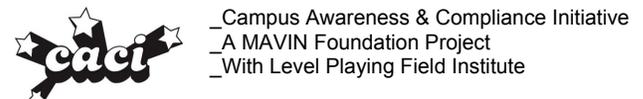
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