



# Student Background Questionnaire

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2009

Grade 8 for Alaska



## DIRECTIONS

This booklet contains two sections of questions. You will be asked about yourself, your education, and your family. Please answer these questions the best that you can. There are no wrong answers to any of the questions.

For some questions the choices will be written down the page as in Example 1. Read the example and fill in the oval that best describes you.

### **Example 1**

1. Which of these do you enjoy doing more?

- ☐ A Reading a book
- ☐ B Playing a game with friends

You should have filled in the oval beside the activity you enjoy doing more.

The choices for some other questions will be written across the page as in Example 2. Read the example and fill in one oval on each line.

### **Example 2**

2. How often do you do each of the following things? Fill in one oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
a. Read a book	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D
b. Play a game with friends	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

Make your answer marks clear and dark in the ovals. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

For a few questions you will be asked to print your answers. Please PRINT LEGIBLY on the lines provided.

You will be told when to begin and to stop.

## National Indian Education Study

### Grade 8 Student Questionnaire

Some of the questions are about your American Indian or Alaska Native background. When you answer these questions, think about the American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group to which you and your family belong. You may call your tribe or group a nation, a village, a band, or a community.

If you are connected to more than one American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, answer for the one you know best.

1. How much do you know about each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VC996578

	Nothing	A little	Some	A lot	
a. Your American Indian or Alaska Native history	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996581
b. Your American Indian or Alaska Native traditions and culture (way of life, customs)	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996582
c. Issues today that are important to American Indian or Alaska Native people	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996583

2. How often have you participated in each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VC996584

	Never	Every few years	At least once a year	Several times a year	
a. Ceremonies and gatherings for people from your American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996586
b. Ceremonies and gatherings that bring people together from many different American Indian tribes or Alaska Native groups	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996587
c. Other American Indian or Alaska Native activities	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	<input type="radio"/> (C)	<input type="radio"/> (D)	VC996589

VC759193

3. How often do members of your family talk to each other in your American Indian or Alaska Native language?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

VC759195

4. How often do people in your school talk to each other in your American Indian or Alaska Native language?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

VC996590

5. During 8th grade, how often have any of your teachers talked to your class about the history, traditions, and cultures (ways of life, customs) of American Indian or Alaska Native people?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

VC996592

6. During 8th grade, have you attended any of the following through your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No, but other 8th-grade students did.	Not offered to 8th-grade students.	
a. Presentations by American Indian or Alaska Native people about their traditions and cultures (ways of life, customs)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC996594
b. American Indian or Alaska Native art and craft demonstrations	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC996613
c. Traditional American Indian or Alaska Native music and/or dance performances	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC996615
d. Field trips to museums, traditional villages, or other places to learn about American Indian or Alaska Native people	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC996616

VC996617

7. During 8th grade, have you used any of the following materials? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No	
a. Books, videos, websites, or computer software about American Indian or Alaska Native history, traditions, and cultures (ways of life, customs)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VC996619
b. Books, videos, websites, or computer software about current issues that are important to American Indian or Alaska Native people	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	VC996620

8. During 8th grade, have you used any of the following materials from your school library?  
Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VC996621

Yes                      No

- a. Books, videos, websites, or computer software about American Indian or Alaska Native history, traditions, and cultures (ways of life, customs)

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

VC996622

- b. Books, videos, websites, or computer software about current issues that are important to American Indian or Alaska Native people

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

VC996623

9. How often do you read for fun on your own time?

VC759235

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever  
Ⓑ Once or twice a month  
Ⓒ Once or twice a week  
Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

10. Here are some sentences about reading. Fill in **one** oval on each line to show whether the sentence describes a person like you.

VC996624

This is  
not like  
me.

This is a  
little like  
me.

This is a  
lot like  
me.

- a. When my teacher talks about something interesting, I try to read more about it.

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

Ⓒ

VC996625

- b. I enjoy reading long stories (for example, chapter books).

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

Ⓒ

VC996626

- c. I enjoy reading about American Indian or Alaska Native people.

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

Ⓒ

VC996627

- d. I enjoy reading about people who have different traditions and cultures (ways of life, customs) than I have.

Ⓐ

Ⓑ

Ⓒ

VC996628

VC759284

11. How do you rate yourself in reading?

- Ⓐ Poor
- Ⓑ Average
- Ⓒ Good
- Ⓓ Very good

VC759285

12. How often do you do mathematics for fun on your own time? For example, play mathematics games or solve mathematics puzzles.

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once or twice a month
- Ⓒ Once or twice a week
- Ⓓ Every day or almost every day

VC759286

13. When my teacher talks about mathematics, I try to learn more about it.

- Ⓐ This is not like me.
- Ⓑ This is a little like me.
- Ⓒ This is a lot like me.

VC996631

14. How much do you know about each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Nothing	A little	Some	A lot
a. American Indian or Alaska Native systems of counting	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ
b. American Indian or Alaska Native symbols and designs used in mathematics	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ

VC996632

VC996633

VC759287

15. How do you rate yourself in mathematics?

- ☐ Ⓐ Poor
- ☐ Ⓑ Average
- ☐ Ⓒ Good
- ☐ Ⓓ Very good

VC996635

16. How often do any of the following people help you with your schoolwork? For example, they might help you to study for a test, help you with a school project, or go over your homework with you. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. A parent or someone else from my family	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VC996636
b. A teacher or another adult from my school	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VC996637
c. Another student	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VC996639
d. Someone else who lives in my community or is a friend of my family	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓓ	VC996640





VC996641

17. During 8th grade, how often have you talked with any of your teachers outside of regular class periods? For example, to get extra help with your assignments, to talk about issues that matter to you, or just to visit.

- ☐ A Never or hardly ever
- ☐ B Once or twice a month
- ☐ C Once or twice a week
- ☐ D Every day or almost every day

VC996643

18. During 8th grade, have you played a sport or belonged to a drama, music, or other club at school?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No

VC996644

19. During 8th grade, how many times have you talked to each of the following people about the classes you should take in high school or about what you want to do after high school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	One time	Two or three times	Four or more times	
a. A family member	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC996645
b. A teacher	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC996646
c. A school counselor	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC996647
d. Another student	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC996648
e. Someone outside of your family or school	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VC996649

20. Which of the following would you plan to do in your first year after high school? Fill in **as many ovals as apply**.

VC996650

- |  |                         |          |
|--|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Go to college full time   | <input type="radio"/> A | VC996651 |
| b. Go to college part time   | <input type="radio"/> B | VC996652 |
| c. Go to another school (for example, career training, technical, or trade/vocational) full time | <input type="radio"/> C | VC996653 |
| d. Go to another school (for example, career training, technical, or trade/vocational) part time | <input type="radio"/> D | VC996654 |
| e. Join the military   | <input type="radio"/> E | VC996655 |
| f. Work full time  | <input type="radio"/> F | VC996656 |
| g. Work part time  | <input type="radio"/> G | VC996657 |
| h. Travel  | <input type="radio"/> H | VC996658 |
| i. Care for family   | <input type="radio"/> I | VC996659 |
| j. I don't know.   | <input type="radio"/> J | VC996660 |

21. How much are the things you are learning in school preparing you for the life you want to lead?

VC996661

- ☐ A Not at all
- ☐ B A little
- ☐ C A fair amount
- ☐ D Very much

VC759293

22. How much do you like school?

- ☐ A Not at all
- ☐ B A little
- ☐ C Somewhat
- ☐ D Very much

VC759294

23. Do you know the name of the American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group you belong to or are enrolled in?

- ☐ A Yes
- ☐ B No
- ☐ C I'm not sure.

VC759295

24. If you know the name of the American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group that you belong to or are enrolled in, or if you think you know it, please print it on the line below. Do not worry about spelling. If you belong to more than one American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, write the names of as many as you know.

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VC759297

25. What else would you like to say about yourself, your school, or about American Indian or Alaska Native people? Use these lines to write your ideas.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT.**

