



Fact Sheet: Racial Profiling in the Classroom

The Ontario Human Rights Commission defines "racial profiling" as any action undertaken for reasons of safety, security or public protection, that relies on stereotypes about race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, or place of origin, or a combination of these, rather than on a reasonable suspicion, to single out an individual for greater scrutiny or different treatment. It is erroneous to associate racial profiling solely with law enforcement practices. Racial profiling occurs in all institutions, including educational institutions. When the policies, practices and programs of the educational environment perpetuate stereotypes, racial profiling can take place¹.

A stereotype is a generalized preconception of a group of people that results in the unconscious or conscious categorization of each member or group, without regard for individual differences. When stereotyping occurs, faulty assumptions and unrealistic expectations are made of individuals resulting in false charges, differential treatment, and conflicts.² It is incumbent of education providers to monitor their feelings and thoughts towards racialized students to ensure their teaching methods and policies are fair and nondiscriminatory. Examples of Racial Profiling: 1. Low expectations of specific racialized groups of students; 2. Educators label student(s) as trouble-makers, low achievers and/or rebellious, primarily based on the belief in the stereotypes of the particular group in which the student belongs.³ Racial profiling can have long-lasting negative effects on the targeted individual, their family and members of the wider community. Some of the effects of racial profiling are:

- Loss of education, negative psychological impact and an increased criminalization of youth;
- Public confidence in educational institutions diminish; and
- Disempowerment of the student.⁴

¹ Ontario Human Rights Commission: : "[Paying the Price, The Human Cost of Racial Profiling](#)"

² Human Rights & Diversity "[Glossary of Key Terms Used In Human Rights & Diversity Education, Training and Practice](#)"

³ Ontario Human Rights Commission: "[Paying the Price, The Human Cost of Racial Profiling](#)"

⁴ Ontario Human Rights Commission: "[Paying the Price, The Human Cost of Racial Profiling](#)"