

Education Programs

Research Requests

I. Purpose

This policy defines the parameters for completing research studies in the district.

II. General Statement of Policy

A. The school district supports opportunities to collaborate, conduct and implement ongoing research that will benefit the lives of district students and staff. Further, the district recognizes that the employees and students will not be subjected to requests that do not have a direct or lasting benefit to the district, and reserves the right to review each research proposal and to consider:

1. The rights and welfare of the students and employees involved.
2. The appropriateness of the methods used to secure informed consent.
3. The balance of risks and potential benefits of the research study.

III. Research Request

The superintendent or designee will develop and implement the process for reviewing, determining, and implementing research studies in the district (see Appendix I). An entity seeking to conduct research must apply through district administration. The district's decision whether to proceed with implementation of the research is final.

IV. Student Generated Research Requests

The superintendent, or designee, will develop and implement the process for reviewing, determining and implementing district student generated research studies (see Appendix II). A district student seeking to conduct research must receive the classroom teacher's approval and school principal's approval prior to applying for the request at the district level. The student must follow all research procedures. The district's decision whether to proceed with implementation of the research is final.

Cross Reference:

Policy 515 Protection and Privacy of Student Records
Policy 520 Student Surveys

Policy 633 Electronic Acceptable Use

Policy
adopted: 2/22/10
revised: 9/21/15
revised: 8/15/16
revised: 7/19/21

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
Edina, Minnesota

Appendix I to Policy 633
EXTERNAL RESEARCH REQUEST PROCESS

- A. Persons or organizations wishing to conduct research in the district must:
1. Complete a research request form (Appendix III).
 2. Submit it to the district's superintendent.
 3. Be recommended for approval by the principal(s) and teacher(s) of any school(s) and/or classroom(s) to be involved.
 4. Notify parents/guardians of any students to be involved upon approval by the district.
- B. The superintendent or designee will review all proposed research studies, surveys and evaluations within the district. The superintendent or designee will either approve or deny the external research request.
- C. All research proposals are subject to a review process. An initial screening is completed to determine whether there is potential risk to students, staff or the district. Criteria used to determine whether or not a research investigation is of potential risk are listed below.
1. District-wide in scope (i.e. includes numerous schools or areas)
 2. Documentary via film, television or general periodical (non-peer reviewed)
 3. Highly sensitive in nature (i.e. controversial or topic area of concern)
 4. Creates a risk or cost to students, staff or district that goes beyond its mission to teach and protect
 5. Cost benefit not directly tied to the district's strategic plan

These criteria are only examples and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of issues related to determining the level of research risk.

- D. All research proposals that are classified as highly sensitive in nature or create a potential risk are reviewed in a district administrators' meeting. If the research request does not meet the criteria for highly sensitive in nature or create a potential risk, it will be reviewed by the superintendent, or designee. After a research proposal is reviewed, a written response will be sent to the principal investigator.
- E. For persons conducting research in the district, the following conditions must be met:

1. Guarantees the anonymity of individual students, schools and district employees in reporting the results, unless written approval is obtained from the parents of participating students, from the school principal, and/or the district employees involved. Data privacy policies must be adhered to.
 2. Publications emanating from studies in the schools should acknowledge the contribution of the district unless requests to the contrary are made or unless the identification of the system would jeopardize future research efforts or district programs.
 3. Final approval of any study will not be made until all measurement instruments have been reviewed and approved.
 4. A progress summary should be provided to the district at six-month intervals.
 5. The final report must also be sent to the district upon completion of the study. Failure to comply with this stipulation places the researcher at risk for approval of future projects.
- F. Requests to conduct research by persons external to the district may be cosponsored by a district administrator who must:
1. Vouch that the research will contribute to the district.
 2. Assist with any necessary coordination during the conduct of the study.
 3. Ensure that the results of the study are shared with the appropriate school or district employees.

Revised: 7/19/21

Appendix II to Policy 633
Internal (Student) Research Request Process

1. Definition

Classroom Research: In district classroom(s), there are many interactions, but these are not necessarily research interactions. Classroom interactions may provide personal information or observations that could reasonably be considered private information/observations, but not rise to the level of classroom research.

Classroom research is a formalized process of collecting data for the purposes of conducting research. Classroom research usually starts with the researcher creating a research plan that includes the purpose of the research and data collection. This research can occur by asking questions, observing, and comparing various data. This research may involve surveys, interviews, collecting data and focus groups.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the following procedures is to ensure students have a high quality learning experience that is personalized and rewarding while at the same time comply with the law and protecting other students. Namely these procedures aim to:

- a. Protect the rights and welfare of the student researcher;
- b. Protect the rights of the welfare of the human participant;
- c. Protect the rights of the families;
- d. Protect the rights of the district; and
- e. Ensure legal compliance.

3. Review Process

- a. Projects must be reviewed to determine potential risk to students, employees or the district. Potential risks might include:
 - i. District-wide surveys
 - ii. Documentary via film
 - iii. Topic deemed highly sensitive or that could violate student's, community member's, or employee's personal information
 - iv. Projects where personally identifiable information is intentionally or unintentionally collected.
- b. Students wishing to conduct survey research must have the questions reviewed by district administration and have prior administrative approval.

4. Research Application, Approval, and Revocation

- a. Principals or teachers who provide opportunities for students to conduct formalized research invoking participation by other students must:
 - i. Provide an opportunity for students to detail their research for approval via an electronic form process.
 - ii. Maintain a list of current research projects.
 - iii. Students must receive written approval by the building administration and teacher prior to conducting the research.
 - iv. Principals and teacher(s) are obligated to terminate research activities out of legal compliance.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA

Protection of Pupil Rights Act, PPRA

Human Research Protection, OHR

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Appendix III to Policy 633

EDINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EXTERNAL RESEARCH REQUEST - APPLICATION

Name _____

Organization _____

Department _____

Address _____
Street City/State Zip

Phone Number(s) _____

Is this study part of your work toward a degree? Yes ____ No ____

If yes, check the following:

Ph. D ____ Ed. D. ____ M.A./M.S. ____ Undergraduate ____ Other ____

University or College _____

Advisor's Name _____

Please also complete the Research Request - Background Summary (following page)

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Co-sponsor/Advisor's Signature _____ Date _____
(Required for non-district employee)

Approved

Disapproved _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____
(Required for all buildings that participate)

Appendix IV to Policy 633

EXTERNAL RESEARCH REQUEST - BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Please submit a concise yet thorough response to the following questions.

1. Title and purpose of study.
2. How will this study benefit Edina Public Schools?
3. What is the intended use and distribution of, and/or publication of, results?
3. Research Design Summary. Give specific information on the methods to be used during the course of the study. Please include your research questions, instruments, proposed sampling, and data collection and analysis procedures. Finally, describe any tasks our employees will be asked to complete.
4. Describe procedures you will use to secure and acknowledge informed consent of all participants. Please attach copies of any letters and forms. Outline how subjects will be identified and criteria used for recruitment, who will make the initial contact with subjects, and whether or not inducements will be used to secure participation.
5. What request are you making of Edina Public Schools? Specify number of students and staff to be involved, length of time, data collection setting, and timeline for completion of your investigation.
6. List all funding sources and budget for your study.
7. Date and copy of research proposal-approval letter from your advisor(s) if your research is part of your work toward a degree.
8. Copy of Institutional Review Board ("IRB") approval and indicate if prior approval from Edina Public Schools is required by your IRB.
9. All approved external research projects will be assessed a \$20.00 processing and administration fee. Additional charges may be incurred that comport with the district's costs associated with data requests.

Please attach additional documentation if needed to elaborate or clarify your study.

Send research request form along with all required information to:

Superintendent Edina Public Schools
5701 Normandale Road
Edina, MN 55424
superintendent@edinaschools.org