

INSTRUCTION

Research Projects

The Board of Directors realizes the importance of research in promoting professional development and in aiding in the development of effective programs. The Shoreline School District recognizes the importance of relevant and valid research and is committed to facilitating appropriate research activities in the district.

The superintendent/designee shall develop appropriate procedures and guidelines to ensure the appropriateness and integrity of research conducted in the district and in schools. All instructional materials, including supplementary materials and teachers' manuals, used with any survey, analysis, or evaluation in a program or project supported by private, district, state or federal funds are available for inspection by parents or guardians.

No student will be required as part of any project or program supported by private, district, state or federal funds to submit, without the prior written consent of the parent or guardian, to survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent or guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious or non-religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent or guardian; or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program, or for receiving financial assistance under such program) without the prior consent of the student (if the student is an adult or emancipated minor), or in the case of an unemancipated minor;

The district shall make arrangements to protect student privacy during the administration of surveys and the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes.

The superintendent/designee shall appoint a district Research Council to review all research projects. The Research Council will be composed of three instructional administrators as defined in the administrative procedures (#2135P). All research conducted by a district employee, for professional or personal reasons (degree requirement), must be approved through this process. All surveys of students for any purpose shall be submitted for approval.

The approval process and guidelines shall be used for both in-district and out-of-district research activities. Projects conducted under the auspices of the Shoreline School District in collaboration with another agency/organization may not be exempt from any of these guidelines without special permission of the superintendent or designee. Final approval of all research projects shall be made by the Superintendent's Staff. Candidates for certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards are exempt from the requirement to submit research projects for approval provided that they receive formal parent or guardian approval of release of any and all information on their students through submission of the Student Release Form required by the National Board.

INSTRUCTION

Research Projects (continued)

In reviewing research proposals, the Research Council will consider the fiscal ramifications of the district's involvement, the impact on staff and student time and morale, and the possible use and value of the results. Priority will be given to projects that:

1. Do not reduce instructional time;
2. Have direct application to the educational program or decision-making process of the Shoreline schools;
3. Have a high degree of technical merits; and
4. Do not require an inordinate amount of administrative, staff, or student time. The safety and security of students and their learning time is the primary focus of the district.

The district will assume no costs or overhead for research projects unless submitted and approved with the initial proposal.

¹ Legal reference: 20 USC 1232h(c)
Public Law 114-95

34 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Protection of Pupil Rights (1974, amended 2001--No Child Left Behind)
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015

Adopted

January 22, 2018
March 20, 2006
October 22, 2001