

RESEARCH AND SURVEYS IN THE SCHOOLS

The board of education recognizes the value of educational research. However, all research studies carried out within the School District of Waukesha, using school district or building data of any kind, staff or students as subjects shall be approved in advance by the superintendent or his/her designee. Only those studies which have value to the school district, either directly or indirectly, shall be approved.

When human subjects are involved in research or surveys, there shall be adequate protection of their rights, welfare, and privacy. With respect to student privacy, the following shall not be asked in any personally identifying manner:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent,
- mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family,
- sex behavior or attitudes,
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior,
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships,
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers,
- religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent, or
- income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

The individuals shall not be subjected to serious risk. The parent (legal guardian) of children who are potential subjects of research or adults if they are subjects will be provided: an explanation of procedures and their purposes, a description of any possible risks and any benefits to be reasonably expected, an offer to respond to inquiries on procedures, and instructions on the right to refuse to participate or to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice. Participation of pupils who are not adults shall be by written consent of one parent.

All materials, including books, printed materials, manuals, pictures, tapes and information drawn from electromagnetic sources, used in connection with the research program shall be available for inspection by appropriate district staff and the parents (guardians) of the children who are being considered as subjects in this research project.

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Nothing in this policy is intended to restrict the routine gathering of the non-confidential opinions of students necessary to plan appropriate programs and curriculum. All student surveys or opinion questionnaires shall be approved by the administration and must guarantee anonymity. When any survey or questionnaire is traceable to an individual student via name, student number or any other method of personal identification, written parent notification by U.S. Mail shall be required within 5 working days of the proposed survey or questionnaire. Parents who object to such questionnaires or surveys shall be informed that upon written request their child may be exempt from that activity.

Administrative guidelines to implement this policy shall be developed by the superintendent or his/her designees.

Reference: Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) 20 USC § 1232h, 34 CFR part 98
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 20 USC § 1232g, 34 CFR part 99
Wisconsin State Statute 118.125

Cross Reference: Policy #6165 - Student Privacy

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May 14, 2003

May 9, 2007

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