

RESEARCH PROJECTS, STUDIES, EXPERIMENTS AND SURVEYS

The Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education (the Board) recognizes that requests will be made on occasion by Colorado Springs School District 11 (District) and non-District personnel and/or agencies to conduct research projects in schools that have educational and social benefit.

However, because such projects invariably involve school personnel and interrupt class instructional time, it is necessary to evaluate carefully the merits of each project before permission is granted.

All research requests should be initiated through the Educational Data and Support Services Office (EDSS). Completed requests will be furnished to the Executive Director for EDSS electronically so that coordination with the appropriate District personnel can be expedited. Request forms to be submitted with the proposals may be obtained at the EDSS office or from the District web site.

Information about the project shall be provided to parents/guardians and students in advance. No student shall be the subject of any research project without the prior written consent of the student's parents or guardian or of the student himself if the student is 18 years of age or older. No "passive consent" (stating that consent is assumed unless the document is returned) will be authorized.

All researchers shall be required to explain in writing the purpose, risks, benefits, procedures, results and intended uses of the project in understandable terms. A student's or parent's/guardian's decision not to participate in a research project shall be kept private and respected in all cases.

No students shall be required without prior written consent to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations
2. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family
3. Sex behavior and attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships
6. Legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers
7. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program

The following guidelines pertain to all research projects, studies, experiments and services:

1. A minimum of six weeks must be allowed between submission of the proposal and the time the research is to begin.
2. All instructional and supplementary materials used in connection with any research project, study or experiment shall be available for review by the parents of students involved in the project.

3. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) will be strictly adhered to in handling of data. In addition, the joint standards for research of the American Education Research Association and the American Psychological Association will be followed.
4. In reporting the findings of the study, the names of the research subjects, the school and the District will be kept anonymous.
5. The importance of the research information to District priorities as well as the time involved to conduct the study will be of major significance in judging a proposal.

Current practice codified 1994
Reviewed May 1995
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LEGAL REFS: 20 U.S.C. 1232h

CROSS REFS.: GCS, Professional Research and Publishing
 JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students
 JRA/JRC, Student Records/Release of Information/Student Data Privacy