

EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATION RESEARCH AGENCIES

- Purpose** As a member of the local and national community of educators, the Providence School Department embraces the pursuit of research which furthers the body of knowledge related to the teaching and learning of children in America's public schools. In particular, the Providence School Board supports research which enriches the educational experiences of the students in Providence and other large urban school systems.
- Recognizing that research is a pursuit which expends the attention and energy of the employees of the Providence School Department and potentially impacts the quality of education of the children of Providence, this policy is designed to protect the educational sanctity of Providence classrooms, protect the privacy of Providence school children and their families, and comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local laws which address all issues associated with research, surveys, data, and the confidentiality of information, academic or otherwise.
- Definitions** For the purposes of this policy, research is any critical investigation or experimentation that includes data collection from or about Providence School Department students, staff, or programs.
- Research includes but is not limited to the use of surveys and questionnaires or the examination of student data and classroom observations.
- Guidelines** Research conducted within the Providence schools shall support the mission of the Providence School District and must directly or indirectly benefit the District, its students, families, staff, or community.
- Research conducted with the Providence schools shall not interrupt, distract, or in any way decrease classroom instruction, particularly in the core content areas of mathematics, English, social studies, and science. The District may limit the number and type of research projects permitted to be conducted in a given school year.
- Techniques for conducting research shall meet professionally accepted guidelines for research involving human subjects. Approval of proposed research projects will be contingent upon a thorough analysis of the proposed research techniques and the determination that the proposed techniques will not interfere with classroom instruction.
- Proposed research shall guarantee the confidentiality and legal protection of all data, product, or intellectual property related to the Providence School Department and students, families and employees of the Providence School Department.
- Research will only be approved when proposed by an institution or organization with its own human subjects internal review board or an individual under the supervision of such an organization. Research conducted on behalf of the Providence School Department shall be subjected to all current, commonly accepted standards of research practice including those in this policy.

Notification and Consent

Parents and legal guardians of Providence students must be informed of the nature, content, and intended use of all research which involves the collection of any information from their children. Collection of information includes, but is not limited to, interviews, focus groups, surveys, or student work products. Additionally, the collection of information via any of the above format requires the active, informed consent of the parent or legal guardian of any minor.

Specifically, any data collection from students that address any of, but is not limited to, the following eight categories shall require informed, active, and parental consent:

- political affiliations
- mental and psychological problems of the student or student's family
- sexual behaviors or attitudes
- illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- critical appraisals or student's family members
- privileged or similar relationships recognized by law, such as those with attorneys, physicians, and ministers
- religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent
- income (other than required by law to determined eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under a program)

Superintendent Authority and Responsibility

The Superintendent shall develop a formal, research request and approval procedure for all parties that wish to conduct research within the Providence School Department and shall have the authority to approve or deny research requests on behalf of the School Board.

Legal Reference**History**

Approved: Nov 24, 2003 Resolution No. 11-23-03