

Relations with Education Research Agencies

The Eagle County School District Board of Education recognizes that requests will be made on occasion by non-school personnel and/or agencies to conduct research projects in the 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 requests to conduct research shall be reviewed by the Assistant Superintendent in accordance with this policy and accompanying procedures to determine if permission shall be granted.

If research by non-school personnel is to involve students, complete information about the project shall be provided to parents 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 and the student him(her)self if the student is old enough to understand the process and purpose of the project. Consent shall not be necessary when the researcher will merely observe students engaged in normal activities.

All researchers shall be prepared to explain the purpose, risks, benefits, procedures, results and intended uses of the project in understandable terms. A student's or parent's decision not to participate in a research project conducted by non-school personnel shall be kept private and respected in all cases.

The Superintendent (*or his/her designee*) will judge the merit of written requests for testing with attention being given to the following areas:

1. Scientific soundness of the project; that is, how likely it is to produce valuable information relative to student class time.
2. Procedures to assure anonymity.
3. Soundness of stated purpose and methods.
4. Benefits of the resulting information.
5. Evaluation of possible risks to students.
6. Examination of parent consent forms and student consent forms when applicable. Parental consent shall be obtained for all research with students not conducted or contracted for by school employees, unless the research consists merely of observing unidentified students engaged in their normal activity. Student consent shall be sought when appropriate.

No student, as part of any applicable federal program, shall participate in a survey, analysis, or evaluation without prior written consent of a parent/guardian if the instrument reveals information concerning:

