

RESEARCH

The Governing Board respects the value of academic research to improve educational programs and practices. The Board also recognizes its responsibility to protect students from outside influences that may contravene the district's goals and legal obligations. Researchers must respect the privacy rights of students, including their right to refrain from participation in research projects.

The Superintendent or designee may authorize research projects within the district by outside groups or persons when such research coincides with district goals and is likely to benefit the district without disrupting the normal school program or making undue demands upon staff time. Requests for information and demonstration of district programs should not limit staff members' ability to fulfill their regular duties.

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51513 Personal beliefs

Instruction**RESEARCH**

Persons or groups wishing to use district staff, students or property in connection with an academic research project shall submit to the Superintendent or designee a written proposal which includes:

1. Name of researcher(s) and academic credentials
2. Purpose and scope of the project
3. Method of study or investigation to be used
4. Extent of participation expected of students and staff
5. Use to which project results will be put
6. Benefits to the school(s) or the district

The Superintendent or designee shall evaluate the extent to which the proposal:

1. Shows potential for improving instructional programs and strategies
2. Addresses a relevant educational problem
3. Avoids duplication of existing data or literature
4. Is designed so as to minimize interruptions and demands upon the time of students and staff

The Superintendent or designee may approve the proposed project for a period of one school year or less. To extend any project into a second year, the researcher(s) must again obtain approval.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of each student to be involved, describing the study and requesting permission for the student to participate. No student shall participate in a research project without advance parental permission.

Researchers shall certify that they will use no school names or publish any findings without the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall advise staff members to be judicious with their time when asked to furnish information requested by researchers. Employees shall notify the Superintendent or designee of any problems which may arise in relation to a research project.

Before allowing group scholastic aptitude tests to be administered for research purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall obtain the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including his/her approval of a group testing plan which includes a current schedule of testing, a statement of purposes of the uses of the tests, and provisions that the tests are administered and results interpreted under the direct supervision of a qualified school psychologist, psychometrist or school counselor. (Education Code 60614)

Regulation

approved: August 21, 2001

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California