

## Research, Copyright and Patents

Employees are encouraged to participate in research and experimentation in the interests of the development and improvement of education. If an employee plans to engage in a research project during the workday or use school resources or students, either for study toward advanced work or for use in classroom instruction, approval must be secured from the superintendent. If such a study results in material that would be useful to other employees, it is recommended that it be made available for distribution throughout the district. For the protection of all concerned, privacy rights of students or other individuals involved in research projects must be protected.

Research which is conducted by or for a nondistrict employee must be approved by the superintendent or designee.

The Board asserts the district's proprietary rights to publications, instructional materials and other devices prepared by district employees during their paid work time. The Board also recognizes the importance of encouraging its professional staff to engage in professional writing, research and other creative endeavors. Publications, articles, materials, models and other items produced by district personnel for district use with district time, money and facilities as part of their job responsibilities remain the property of the district.

The district will apply for copyrights and patents when deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

In the event that an employee produces items described above partly on his/her own time and partly on district time, the district reserves the right to claim full ownership. The employee, however, may petition the district for assignment of copyright or patent rights. Employees will not attempt to copyright or patent such items without the knowledge and consent of the superintendent.

Employees who intend to make application to patent or copyright any item will furnish to the superintendent full, complete and prompt information and disclosure with respect to any such item.

END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99 (2000).  
Protection of Pupil Rights, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98 (2000).  
Copyrights, Title 17, as amended, United States Code; 19 CFR Part 133 (2001).  
Patents, Title 35, as amended, United States Code.