

Research

Surveys, questionnaires and research projects initiated by a teacher for students or staff of another building, or initiated by individuals other than district personnel, must be approved by the superintendent or designee prior to administration of such instruments.

Surveys, questionnaires and research projects initiated by teachers for students and staff in their buildings must be approved by the building principal. This type of research is not to be confused with that used by the teacher or department for the purpose of improvement of instruction.

The district shall follow the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). PPRA governs the administration to students of a survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight protected areas:

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

PPRA also concerns marketing surveys and other areas of student privacy, parental access to information, and the administration of certain physical examinations to minors.

The rights under PPRA transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The district must provide parents and students effective notice of their rights under PPRA. In addition, the district will provide legal notice at least annually, at the beginning of the school year. The notification must indicate that PPRA applies to surveys that contain questions about one or more of the eight protected areas listed above. Parents have the right to review, upon request, any survey that concerns one or more of the eight protected areas, any instructional materials used in connection with any survey that concerns one or more of the eight protected areas.

The district must directly notify, such as through US Mail or e-mail, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below. The district must provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her student out of participation in the following specific event or survey:

1. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is: a) required as a condition of attendance, b) administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance, and/or c) not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students;
3. The administration of any survey containing one or more of the eight protected areas of information listed above and that is not funded in whole or part by Federal funds.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (2006); Family Educational Rights and Privacy, 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (2006).

Protection of Pupil Rights, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (2006); Student Rights in Research, Experimental Programs and Testing, 34 C.F.R. Part 98 (2006).