

Community Relations

Relations Between Non-Public and Other Educational Organizations and the Schools

Relations with Educational Researchers (Conducting Research and Survey Projects)

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of research in education therefore, will allow research and survey projects to be conducted in the Watertown Unified School District in accordance with established guidelines. When a research project or course requirements involve the use of school personnel, students and/or student records, the approval of the Superintendent/designee must be obtained before the project is undertaken. The following criteria will be used in the approval of research projects:

- The approval will be made on the basis of a written description of a well-planned project which has had previous approval of a representative of the institution of higher learning.
- There shall be no change in the curriculum, scope, and sequence in any grade or class as a result of the project.
- Research proposals should be of sufficient scope and depth to justify the time and effort of Watertown students and staff members.
- No control group shall be denied the use of the best teaching methods in use in the school system.
- In the experimental group, the amount of class time devoted to the experimental procedures shall not interfere with the regular allotment of time for the program of studies.
- If the research project involves the taping or recording of interviews with students, gathering of personal information, testing of students, or surveys of students and/or their parents/guardians, approval will be granted only after a signed release is obtained from the parent(s)/guardian(s) of each student and filed in the office of the building principal.
- Only those studies that have value to the WUSD, either directly or indirectly shall be approved.
- Results should be valuable and reliable and made available to WUSD at the project's conclusion.

All materials, including books, printed materials, manuals, pictures, tapes and information drawn from electromagnetic sources, used in connection with the research program shall be available for inspection by appropriate district staff and parents (guardians) of the children who are being considered as subjects in this research project.

Nothing in this policy is intended to restrict the routine gathering of the non-confidential opinions of students necessary to plan appropriate programs and curriculum. All student surveys or opinion questionnaires shall be approved by the administration and must guarantee anonymity. When any survey or questionnaire is traceable to an individual student via name, student number, or any other method of personal identification, written parent notification by U.S. mail shall be required. Parents who object to such questionnaires or surveys shall be informed that upon written request their child may be exempt from that activity.

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