

## R 9550 EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- A. The Superintendent and the Ridgewood Board of Education will review any educational research/survey which contains any questions concerning (1) political beliefs of the pupil or the pupil's parent or (2) religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the pupil or the pupil's parent.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education will also review any educational research/survey which requests pupils to reveal information concerning: (1) political affiliations; (2) mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the pupil or the pupil's family; (3) sexual behavior and attitudes; (4) illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior; (5) critical appraisals of other individuals with whom a respondent has a close family relationship; (6) legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and clergy; (7) income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility of participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such programs), or (8) social security number.

- B. Prior to administration of such instrument in paragraph A, the Board must approve the project.
- C. Teachers responsible for the administration will be involved in discussions concerning the project.
- D. The content and purpose of the research shall be communicated to all parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
- E. Materials such as surveys used in the research shall be made available for parental review prior to administration.
- F. With respect to educational research/surveys referred to in paragraph A, there shall be clear written communication from the Superintendent on how parents may exercise their right to have their child not participate in the research. Such notification will take the form of passive consent, i.e., parents will be notified of the project via U.S. Mail and they must return to the district a signed refusal form to prevent their child from participating. Notification will be provided a minimum of twenty calendar days prior to administration.
- G. With respect to educational research/surveys referred to in paragraph A, the district must obtain, two weeks prior to the administration of the survey, written consent of a parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be notified of the project via U.S. Mail and they must return to the district a signed permission slip indicating approval for their child to participate.



# REGULATION

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- H. Pupils shall be informed of the voluntary and anonymous nature of the study and instructed on procedures for not participating. In addition to all other communications of the voluntary nature of the study, any survey disseminated must clearly state the voluntary nature of the pupil's participation and provide instruction for exercising one's right not to participate.
- I. Notification of Policy 9550, and of the specific or approximate dates (to the extent known) of the administration of an educational research/survey concerning the subject matter areas enumerated in paragraph A, shall be provided to parents at the beginning of each school year.

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