

RESEARCH

The Passaic Board of Education recognizes that educational research can be a valuable tool in identifying and applying strategies to enhance student achievement and in identifying factors that could prevent students from becoming contributing members of society. Surveys among student populations can be an important part of this research.

Students and parents/guardians retain certain rights, however, in the administration of surveys. The board shall ensure a copy of the survey is available for viewing and that prior written consent is obtained from parents/guardians or emancipated students before any survey is administered that is funded in whole or in part by any state or federal source, if the survey (analysis or evaluation) is designed to reveal information on any of the following:

- A. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents/guardians;
- B. Mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- C. Sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- E. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, or ministers;
- G. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
- H. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program);
- I. Use of the student's social security number at any point in the research process; or
- J. Use of video or photographs of students.

Parents/guardians shall be given the opportunity to inspect any survey, analysis or evaluation that solicits information in any of the above areas. If parents/guardians object to their child(ren)'s participation in the survey, the child(ren) shall be allowed to opt out.

Prior approval of the superintendent or his/her designee is required for research conducted in the

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Passaic Public Schools. Anyone seeking approval of a proposed research study must provide the superintendent with details of the study methodology, its specific educational purpose, and a description of how results will be disseminated and applied.

The superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy that include reasonable timelines for parents/guardians to access and review surveys as prescribed by law, and arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of a survey.

This policy and the regulations shall be made available to the public at least annually at the beginning of the school year, especially to parents/guardians and to district staff. The public shall be informed within a reasonable period of time if substantive change is made to policy and regulations.

First Reading: December 19, 2016
 Second Reading: January 30, 2017
 Adopted: January 30, 2017
 Revised: July 30, 2018

First Reading: July 29, 2019
 Second Reading: August 28, 2019
 Readopted: August 28, 2019

Key Words

Student Privacy, Research, Surveys

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:36-34 Written approval required prior to acquisition of certain survey information from students
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4 District policies and procedures

20 U.S.C.A. 1232g – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

20 U.S.C.A. 1232h – Protection of Student Rights Amendment

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-95, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

In re: Application of Charles V. Reilly, Robert A. Hutton and Sean Reilly to Contest the Validity of the Enactment of Assembly Bill 3359 (P.L. 2001, c. 364), Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, Docket No. A-0163-02T2, 2003 N.J. Super. Lexis 376

Possible

Cross References: *1140 Distribution of materials by students and staff

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1315	Distribution of materials to students and staff
4132	Publications/materials
*5020	Role of parents/guardians
*5124	Reporting to parents/guardians
*5125	Student records
*5141.3	Health examinations and immunizations
*6147.1	Evaluation of individual student performance

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.