



POLICY #5.32

RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS

PREAMBLE

The Board of Education recognizes that value of sound research, both specific to educational practice and having a more general impact on members of the community, is worthwhile and potentially beneficial to all involved. The Board also recognizes that the school structure and environment provides a suitable opportunity by which to conduct such research. However, the facilitation of such research studies must be in keeping with existing district standards and responsibilities, and participation shall always remain voluntary.

POLICY

THE BOARD MAY APPROVE RESEARCH REQUESTS THAT ARE DEEMED TO BE SOUND IN NATURE AND THAT DO NOT NEGATIVELY IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING, SCHOOL OPERATIONS, SCHOOL CLIMATE, OR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

OBJECTIVES

In considering proposals to conduct research in Burnaby schools, the Board will ensure that the proposed research

1. Furthers the goals of public education;
2. Is mutually beneficial to both the researcher and the school or district; and
3. Seeks to contribute to a body of relevant knowledge.

DEFINITIONS

“Research” shall be defined as data-based investigation involving individuals or groups of individuals that adheres to the empirical principles of:

1. systematic design and process;
2. freedom from bias;
3. structured analysis; and

4. yielding interpretation consistent with findings.

Research activities shall include the use of tests or other forms of assessment, checklists, surveys or questionnaires, interviews, audio or video tapes, and observation when these are not part of classroom instruction and evaluation.

REGULATIONS

The Board of Education will permit educational research activities in schools involving students and/or staff only in accordance with the following principles and guidelines:

REQUESTS

1. The school district will consider research proposals from district teachers and administrators, university graduate students, post-secondary faculty members and professional educational associations. Research proposals from other individuals, agencies or organizations will be considered only under exceptional circumstances.
2. All research requests must be submitted on a Burnaby School District Proposal For Research Studies form, and must clearly describe such details as the nature of the activity, participation involved, assistance needed, and proposed time frame.
3. Any submission from a university graduate student or post-secondary faculty must first be approved by that institution's Ethics Committee. A copy of that approval shall be included with the submission.
4. Any research proposal from a graduate student must be endorsed by a full-time member of that university's academic staff.
5. The submission shall also include copies of any consent forms, questionnaires, inventories or tests to be used in the study.
6. Those submitting a research request shall be aware of the requirement to provide the school district with a full report on the research results, as well as to discuss or present their findings to school or district staff if required (see the RESULTS section below).

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

In evaluating study proposals, consideration will be given to such factors as the purpose and educational value of the study, the impact on educational programs, the amount of time required of students and/or staff, and the effect on community relations.

1. A proposed research study will be reviewed by designated staff with specific consideration to:
 - a. Relevance: meaningfulness and contribution to the improvement of education and/or knowledge of student learning, or general community benefit.

- b. Methodology: requirements for identification and selection of participants; quality of the research design, procedures and data analysis.
- c. Scope: proposed contact group, number of participants and schools or district offices involved.
- d. Intrusiveness: extent of disruption to students, staff or school operations; need for special arrangements within the school or district offices; need for involvement of district or school staff.
- e. Timelines: time of year, duration of the study and related impact on the school, students or staff.
- f.

