

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHERS

The schools of the School District of Brodhead wish to promote research seeking the improvement of all phases of the learning process. Surveys, testing instruments, questionnaires, and interviews are all part of the orderly process of research and problem solving. It is the purpose of this guide to provide a procedure for meaningful research and problem solving in our schools, and to reduce the indiscriminate use of school time for projects which have little value to the learning process.

Teachers who use questionnaires and surveys as a regular part of the evaluation of their teaching effectiveness may continue to do so with the approval of the principal.

Class projects which involve the use of surveys or questionnaires, must be cleared with the principal before they may be used outside of the class involved.

Individual faculty members, including practice teachers and interns, who wish to use a survey instrument or a questionnaire to secure information for a graduate class project must first be given approval by the school principal before using the instrument with any group of students in the school. Survey instruments or questionnaires designed by a department, team or committee to solicit information from students may be used after approval by the principal.

Survey instruments, questionnaires or research projects initiated by individuals, institutions, clubs or other agencies not a part of the School District of Brodhead must be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for approval prior to their use in any classroom.

The Brodhead Education Association may conduct staff surveys as it relates to the function of the organization. However, all other staff surveys must receive prior approval of the principal before the survey or questionnaire is distributed within the school. Individual teachers who receive questionnaires, surveys or other research instruments may deal with them as they deem most appropriate.

In accordance with Federal law, no student survey may seek or collect information of the nature listed below, unless the student's parent has been notified of the survey and its content, been provided the opportunity (upon request) to inspect the survey, and given permission for the student to participate.

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
- mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
- legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
- income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

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