

|| **ORGANIZATION, PHILOSOPHY, AND GOALS**

|| **Research, Testing, and Program Evaluation**

|| **Approval Process for Research Studies and Data Collection Activities**

This policy supersedes Policy 1475.

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidance for conducting research and collecting data in Fairfax County Public Schools.

II. RESEARCH STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTION

The Fairfax County School Board recognizes the potential benefits to the school division of participating in relevant, well-designed research studies and data collection activities proposed by qualified individuals, organizations, or institutions.

Fairfax County Public Schools shall consider requests for conducting research studies from individuals or groups. Requests may originate either from qualified persons employed by the School Board or from universities or research organizations. Approval for conducting such studies shall be based primarily on the extent to which substantial benefits can be shown for Fairfax County Public Schools in its mission of educating children, youth, and adults.

Under the research screening process, staff members shall publish and oversee both written procedures for authorizing the conduct of such activity, and standards for the dispositions of resulting information.

III. REQUIRED APPROVALS AND PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR CERTAIN SURVEYS

Participation in research studies by students, parents, and staff members shall be voluntary. Written parental permission shall be required for students participating in federally funded surveys inquiring about students' political affiliation, psychological problems, sexual behavior or attitudes, illegal anti-social self-incriminating or demeaning behavior, critical appraisals of family, privileged relationships, religious beliefs, or in certain circumstances, income. For all other surveys involving these topics, or requesting other personal information about students, parents shall be provided the opportunity to inspect the survey and optout before students participate. Notices and protections for the privacy rights of students, parents, and staff members shall be provided in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

IV. OTHER STUDIES

Internal research studies, including data collection activities not involving the topic listed in section III. may be conducted without approval of the research screening process on behalf of Fairfax County Public Schools by staff members carrying out their assigned responsibilities to maintain and improve instructional programs and administrative practices. Parents and staff members shall have the right to inspect such studies, and materials used in connection with such studies, on request. Any data collection, reporting, and/or related research activity undertaken within, or by, Fairfax County Public Schools shall protect the privacy of students, parents, and employees.

See also the current version of: Policy 2701, Student Personal Data
Policy 2720, Student Lists
Policy 2730, Confidentiality of Student Information

Policy
adopted: October 8, 1998
Revised: June 13, 2003

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD