



SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Deputy Superintendent
Research and Reporting Department

Guidelines for Research Project Applicants, 2007–08

- I. These guidelines are directed to persons requesting permission to conduct research involving multiple schools within the San Diego Unified School District in 2007–08.

The district approves a limited number of studies annually. Stringent qualifying criteria have been set regarding eligibility to conduct research, the quality of the research proposal, the importance of the study topics to the district, how much time is required of students and/or staff, and in what schools the studies may take place.

Two broad categories of persons are eligible to conduct research studies:

A. **Graduate Students**

1. The study must be the master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, or the particular university's equivalent of these major research undertakings.
2. The school district division/department head most closely associated with the topical area of research must endorse *and* sponsor the proposed study.
 - a. Endorsement is provision of a strong written statement of support for the proposed study, certifying that:
 - (1) The study provides information the division/department vitally needs and actively seeks, and
 - (2) In the endorser's opinion, the applicant possesses the requisite skills and resources to carry the study through successfully.
 - b. Sponsorship includes:
 - (1) Attending the review of the proposal by district staff;
 - (2) Preparing a Memorandum of Agreement between the researcher and the district upon approval of the research;
 - (3) Providing necessary help and guidance to the researcher during the research; and
 - (4) Ensuring that research is done as proposed.

3. The study's methodology shall minimize demands on students and/or staff.
4. Schools targeted for study shall not be heavily committed in other research studies and/or in special efforts to correct students' achievement deficit.

B. Persons Already Holding an Earned Doctorate or Representing a Research Agency. Criteria are the same as those in Items I.A.2–4.

- II. These guidelines supplement Procedure 4930, which provides additional information regarding district policies, limitations on research topics, applicant responsibilities, and other provisions.

A panel of central office staff will review and decide once a month (usually the second Monday of each month—see schedule below) on those written proposals and endorsements received in the Research and Reporting Department at least *two weeks prior to the meeting date*. In most instances applicants will be expected to present their projects orally to the panel and respond to questions at the review sessions. The Research and Reporting Department will inform each applicant whether s/he will be called upon for such a presentation. Each person submitting a proposal should be prepared to reserve 3–5 *p.m.* on the review date set for discussing his or her project with the review panel.

Contact Dr. Peter Bell in the Research and Reporting Department at (619) 725-7193 for clarification of these guidelines.

**Research Proposal Review Panel
Meeting Schedule**

September 17	March 10
October 8	April 14
November 5	May 12
December 10	June 9
January 14	July 28
February 11	

San Diego Unified School District
 Request for Approval to Conduct Research in Multiple Schools
 (For Advanced Degree Purposes)

Applicant's Name	Mailing Address	e-Mail Address	Daytime Telephone No.
Employer		University	Degree Sought
Work Location		Title of Proposed Study	
Position/Job Title			
District Sponsor		Position of Sponsor	
Brief Description of the Study			
<p>With this completed form, submit the following to the Research and Reporting Department, 4100 Normal Street, Room 3107, San Diego, CA 92103:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter endorsing the proposed study from the school district division/department head most closely associated with the topical area of this research. (See Guidelines which accompanied application materials from the district.) 2. Thesis or Dissertation Chairperson's Affidavit (fully completed). 3. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act compliance form (with applicant's signature). 4. The research proposal—eight (8) copies. Note the reverse side of this form concerning the district's expectation regarding the content and compositional presentation of the proposal. <p>Usually, proposals are reviewed the second Monday of each month. The deadline for submitting the proposal is <i>ten working days</i> before the review date, typically Monday, two weeks before the review. The Research and Reporting Department will notify the applicant by mail of the district's decision concerning the proposal.</p>			
For District Employees Only			
<p>If the proposed study is to be conducted at the San Diego City Schools site or office where you work, discuss the project with your supervisor and have him or her sign this form. This only indicates that they have been made aware of the proposal. It does not denote approval or disapproval.</p>			
_____		_____	
Supervisor's signature		Applicant's signature	

Elements of a Research Proposal

Complete information concerning the proposed research activity *must* be provided, so that district personnel can make informed judgments about it. Elements outlined below are typically included in a *narrative* presentation of the proposal. This is a general outline; any particular research proposal might not include all items. However, the proposal must be presented with such coherence and contain whatever elements are essential to describe a scholarly investigation of an educational matter. School district reviewers will consider the written presentation of the proposal as a sample of the quality to be expected in the final report of the study.

1. Title of the study.
2. Statement of the educational problem and its theoretical base.
3. Review of related literature or analysis of previous research which is important to the proposed study.
4. Significance of the problem and the study to the educational services provided San Diego Unified School District students or to other aspects of the district's operations.
5. Objectives of the study, hypotheses to be tested, or research questions to be investigated.
6. Assumptions and limitations.
7. Definition of important terms.
8. Procedures of the project:
 - a. Starting date, duration, and expected date of final report.
 - b. Student population, number and characteristics (e.g., grades, gender).
 - c. School(s) and classes—or departments—in which data are to be collected.
 - d. Method and criteria for study sample selection
 - e. Time required of students, teachers, and others for
 - treatment or instructional procedures, if applicable, and/or
 - data collection.
 - f. Designation and definition of variables, as appropriate
 - g. Date to be collected, data collection plan and schedules
 - h. Instruments to be used. Include a near-final copy of each, including an interview protocol if interviews are to be used.
 - i. Means by which principals and teachers will be informed of the research subject and their willingness to host/participate in the study will be sought. If by letter, submit a draft.
 - j. Means by which parents will be informed of research project, or parental written permission, if required, will be sought for students' participation in the study. If by letter, submit a draft which the *principal* or other district *manager* could use. The letter to parents *must* come from one of these officials, not the researcher.
 - k. General procedure (what will be done by the investigator, teacher, pupils, others).
9. Research design
10. Method of data analysis, statistical treatment to be given, decision criteria.
11. Disposition to be made of research results.

Note: Proposal narratives should not exceed ten pages in length.
07–2006

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Standards, Assessment, and Accountability

THESIS OR DISSERTATION CHAIRPERSON'S AFFIDAVIT

Name of graduate student _____

The above-named graduate student has obtained the necessary clearance from this university to submit to San Diego Unified School District the master's or doctoral degree-seeking research proposal entitled:

I have reviewed this research proposal, in the form in which it is being submitted herewith, and judge it to meet the quality standards of this university, as well as the information requirements and research proposal quality expectations the school district has set forth in its Procedure No. 4930 research proposal application form.

Chairperson's name _____
(print)

Title _____

University _____

(Chairperson's signature) Date _____

**ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS
OF THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974**

_____ (hereinafter called the "Applicant")
Name of applicant

HEREBY AGREES TO COMPLY with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to regulation of the Department of Education and the San Diego Unified School District (including but not limited to Administrative Regulation and Procedure Nos. 6525 and 6527) to the end that the rights and privacy of the students enrolled in the San Diego Unified School District and their parents are not violated or invaded.

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for purposes of obtaining approval to conduct research under the provisions of district Administrative Regulations and Procedure No. 4930. Such research may require access to individual student data. The provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 include, but are not limited to, ensuring that:

- No identification of students or their parents by persons other than representatives of the Applicant is permitted.
- The individual student data will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose for which they were obtained.
- No access to individual student data shall be granted by the Applicant to any other person, persons, agency or organization without the written consent of the pupil's parent, except for sharing with other persons within the district or representatives of the Applicant engaged in work specifically entailed by the research activities approved by the district.

The Applicant recognizes and agrees that such approval and access to individual student data will be extended in reliance on representations made in this assurance, and that the district shall have the right to enforcement of this assurance, or revocation of such approval and access immediately upon evidence of noncompliance by the Applicant. This assurance is binding on the Applicant and such persons as may be employed by the Applicant to assist in any phase of the research effort.

_____ Date _____
(Applicant's signature)

(Applicant's mailing address)