

**NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Board Policy**

**4132**

**PERSONNEL**

**Professional**

**Professional Research**

The board recognizes the value of educational research conducted by staff members and encourages professional growth and development as exemplified in the pursuit of advanced degrees. Members of the board hope and expect that all professional staff members and administrators will seek to advance their knowledge and experience through additional course work and schooling. In addition, the board understands that the attainment of advanced degrees most often necessitates the completion of unique, individual research.

However, any and all graduate/undergraduate research studies carried out by members of the professional and/or administrative staff using district or school data of any kind, and/or staff or students as subjects, must be approved in advance by the superintendent or designee. The superintendent will inform the board of any research projects.

When human subjects are involved in research, there will be adequate protection of their rights and welfare. Parents of children who are subjects of research, or adults if they are subjects, will be provided:

1. an explanation of procedures and their purposes.
2. a description of any possible risks and benefits.
3. an offer to respond to inquiries on procedures.
4. a permission form allowing for participation in and the right to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice.

The superintendent or designee will maintain records and the final document on any and all research projects conducted by staff as part of academic or professional research and shall be subject to all of the above mentioned requirements, state and federal laws, and regulations.

Any research project proposed by an outside organization or agency to be conducted concerning the district must have the prior approval of the board.

Policy:

Adopted: January 16, 1997

Amended: October 23, 2008