

BOISE SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

I. Introduction

The Independent School District of Boise has, as its prime goal, quality education for the children of Boise

The Boise Public School and the collegiate community at large share the common goal of seeking to maintain high educational standards in the classroom. In this endeavor, the institutions of higher learning, which instruct our teachers and the schoolhouses, which “educate” our teachers, have a cooperative relationship.

The educational relationship between college and public schools has centered on five types of activities:

- A. Observation – college or university professors may require students to observe children in the classroom. Where children’s names are not divulged, college and university students need only request permission of the principal and teacher of the school involved.
- B. Training – Training here refers to experience in individual testing and diagnosis performed under the guidance of university or college professors. It is preferred that these activities be conducted during after-school hours and with parental consent. Training activities performed during school hours require prior parental consent and the cooperation of the principal and teacher involved.
- C. Practicum – Practicum is defined as in-class experience in teaching, which is typically a component in the educational experience of the novitiate teacher. The area director in cooperation with faculty of the respective universities and colleges shall arrange practicum experience.
- D. Program Development – Dialogue between Boise School curriculum developers and university teacher training faculty helps to define common curricular goals and to update classroom methodology.
- E. Research – Research is defined here as data collection involving specific hypotheses or questions. Students pursuing research questions are required to submit a formal proposal to the committee for research in the schools.

II. Boise School Research Committee

A. The Research Committee has been established to screen potential research projects in the schools. All proposals will be examined in order to ensure:

1. Protection of students and staff
2. Privacy of the community
3. Minimal interruption of the school day
4. Benefit to the field of education

B. The committee is composed of representatives from the following groups:

District administration, elementary administration, secondary administration, and curriculum.

III. Submission of Research Proposals

A. Types of research

1. Research required by college course – (other than MA or PhD)

- a) All such research requests from college and university students must first be screened by the collegial faculty member who is responsible for requiring the projects in which school children are to be used as subjects.
- b) Proposals are then submitted by the student to the Boise Schools Research Committee (BSRC).

2. Master's or doctoral research

- a) The proposal is submitted to BSRC.
- b) A letter must accompany the proposal from the student's college or university thesis advisor.

3. State and national sampling research

Requests for the participation of the Boise schools in state or national sampling research should be presented to the BSRC.

4. In-District research

- a) District pilot studies of materials an/or approaches need only be recorded with the BSRC.
- b) In-school research by district personnel – the school principal will approve and maintain a log of such activities.

When these activities are beyond the normal operation of the school program, a research proposal will need to be presented to the BSRC.

B. Proposal Format

All research projects, as defined in Part A, shall be submitted to the BSRC for approval. The committee may approve, approve-pending changes, or reject the proposed research. Research projects may not be carried out anywhere in the Boise School District without approval of the BSRC. BSRC approval, however, does not guarantee the cooperation of specific personnel in the Boise School District; it only authorizes the researcher to seek cooperation of specific Boise School District staff, students and parents, according to project needs and design.

Projects submitted to the BSRC for consideration may be presented in hard copy or electronic form and shall include the following:

1. Name of researcher(s), address and telephone number
2. Title of study
3. Introduction

The introduction shall state clearly the purpose(s) for conducting the research including: a) background information about why the researcher(s) desires to conduct such research; b) its importance for education; c) the specific questions or hypotheses to be dealt with in the research project, and d) the type of research (see Part A, section 11) being conducted.

4. Method

The description of method is intended to detail all procedures that will be carried out in the course of completing the research. The method section of the proposal shall include the following specific information:

- a) Subjects – How many students or other study participants, in which grades, and in which schools are to be used in the study?
- b) Procedures
 - 1) Approval methods for securing principal, teacher and parental support must be documented (All proposed forms for soliciting cooperation will be presented in the Appendix).

- 2) Data collection methods – what data are to be collected and briefly describe the methods for that collection? (Actual copies of all data collection devices: tests, questionnaires, observation sheets, etc. must be presented in the Appendix).
- 3) Confidentiality – specify by what means confidentiality of student, school, and district will be guaranteed.
- 4) Data Analysis – specify how the data are to be analyzed.
- 5) Time Schedule – specify dates for completing the various phases of the research.
- 6) Final Report – specify the format of the completed research report which will be sent to the BSRC.

c) Appendix

- 1) All forms of soliciting principal, teacher, student and parent approval will be provided in the appendix.
- 2) All data collection instruments including tests, observation sheets and questionnaires will be provided in the appendix.

C. Approval Procedure

1. Proposals shall be submitted to the Chairman of the BSRC in the form of an email attachment or 6 hard copies.
2. The copies will be distributed to members of the committee for study. If members have questions concerning the proposal, the committee will convene for a discussion and may request further information and/or revisions.
3. Please allow a minimum of two weeks for a response.
4. Again, please remember that even upon approval, a principal may deny access to his or her building due to timing, instructional time, research cap, etc... The principal is not required to explain the reason/s. You are welcome to talk with other principals at that point.

IV. Financing

It will be the responsibility of the initiator of the proposal to secure financing to accomplish the research. This includes translation of documents and interpreters for interviews if applicable (required if working with immigrant and/or refugee populations).

V. Follow-up on Completed Research

- A. A copy of the final report and an abstract of the findings will be provided to the BSRC by the researcher.
- B. The report and abstract, filed in the office of the BSRC office, will be available for perusal by interested parents, teachers, and principals.

For questions, please contact the BSRC Chairman:
Dr. Ann Farris
ann.farris@boiseschools.org