

Section I: Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Descriptor Term: Surveys, Analysis and Evaluations	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		I-400	2/13
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	9/21		

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It is in the interest of the Board of Education to be abreast of changes in educational technology, results of current educational research, and innovative educational programs. Therefore, the Board welcomes the opportunity to participate in the development of innovative ideas and quality research in education¹. Research and/or stand-alone surveys shall be allowed within the Knox County Schools (KCS) when the project contributes to a greater understanding of teaching-learning processes, aligns with KCS goals and is not disruptive to the regular school program.

However, it is the obligation of Board and the Knox County Schools to protect the interests and learning opportunities of students, teachers, and other stakeholders. These interests and opportunities will not be sacrificed in order to establish a setting conducive to research. To ensure this obligation is met, the Director of schools will establish a process to evaluate and approve research proposals. All proposals will be examined carefully on the basis of whether the proposal will contribute significant new and useful information to the educational program of Knox County Schools and public education as a whole.

In general, permission to conduct research may be denied when the study is deemed to:

1. interfere with instructional time, or
2. be too socially or politically sensitive, or
3. have little or no educational research value, or
4. place too great a burden on Knox County Schools personnel, or
5. use the Knox County Schools for convenience sampling, or
6. require information identifiable to a particular student, or
7. be redundant in that similar data were gathered through another recent project.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Parents shall have the right to inspect all materials that will be used in surveys, focus groups, interviews, tests or other research instruments and the proposed analyses of research and/or survey results. Parents will also be permitted to opt out of their child’s participation in any survey, focus group, interview, or other research activity.

No student may, without parental consent, take part in research and/or surveys that cover or discuss:

1. Political or religious affiliations;
2. Potentially embarrassing psychological problems;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Anti-social or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of family members;
6. Legally privileged relationships.

Legal Reference

1. T.C.A. § 49-2-211.