


A Federal Perspective on
Research in Education:
No Human Subject Left Behind

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A photograph of a building entrance designed to look like a red barn. The entrance is framed by a white border and features a sign with the text "No Child Left Behind". The building has a tan facade with several windows above the entrance. A white picket fence is visible in the foreground.

No Child Left Behind

Three Federal Influences on Research in Education

- Surveys Collecting Sensitive Information from Students
- Randomized Trials of Education Interventions
- School Willingness to Participate in Research

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
U.S. Department of Education (ED)

- Choices for Parents
- Proven Methods
- Stronger Accountability
- More Local Freedom

Choices for Parents: The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

- PPRA gives parents the right to inspect instructional materials and surveys
- PPRA gives parents the right to consent before their children participate in protected information surveys

Protected Information Categories

- Political affiliations or beliefs
- Mental or psychological problems
- Sex behavior or attitudes
- Illegal or anti-social behavior
- Critical appraisals of immediate family
- Legally privileged relationships
- Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs
- Income

How Does PPRA Apply?

- Parents must provide written consent before minors can be required to submit to an ED-funded survey concerning protected information
- Parents must receive notice and be able to opt minors out of any protected information survey in any ED-funded school in accordance with school/district policy.

California Healthy Kids Survey

Long Beach Unified School District

Table 3. Multiple-Year Comparison of District Data — Safety-Related Experiences

	Grade 7		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	Spring 2001	Spring 2003	Spring 2001	Spring 2003	Spring 2001	Spring 2003
<i>During the past 12 months at school, have you...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
been in a physical fight? (PI #13)	42	38	28	27	18	20
<i>During the past 30 days, on how many days on school property did you carry a weapon?*</i>	4	9	4	10	5	6
<i>How safe do you feel...</i>						
when you are at school?	81	80	80	78	81	81
<i>Have you ever belonged to a gang?</i>	16	14	15	14	12	11

(PI #) SDFSCA/TUPE Performance Indicator recommended by CDE.

* 2000 survey split question between gun and other weapons. Data not directly comparable to 2002 survey.

Proven Methods: Support for Scientifically-Based Research

- Educational programs based on scientifically-based research (e.g. *Reading First*)
- *What Works Clearinghouse* of strategies built upon scientifically-based research
- New scientifically-based research studies

“Scientifically-Based Research”

“...means research that involves the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to education activities and programs; and includes...”

(No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

“Scientifically-Based Research”

- Systematic observation or experiment
- Hypotheses tested by rigorous data analyses
- Reliable, valid measures
- Experimental or quasi-experimental design
- Replicability
- Peer review

ED Priority for Scientifically Based Evaluation Methods: 1/25/05

“The Secretary establishes a priority for projects proposing an evaluation plan that is based on rigorous scientifically based research methods to assess the effectiveness of a particular intervention. The Secretary intends that this priority will allow program participants and the Department to determine whether the project produces meaningful effects on student achievement or teacher performance.”

ED Priority (cont.)

“Evaluation methods using an experimental design are best for determining project effectiveness. Thus, when feasible, the project must use an experimental design under which participants – e.g., students, teachers, classrooms, or schools – are randomly assigned to participate in the project activities being evaluated or to a control group that does not participate in the project activities being evaluated.”

Illustration: School Uniforms

- 1994: Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) institutes a school uniform policy.
- 1996: ED issues a *Manual on School Uniforms*, noting LBUSD officials' reports of decreases in school crime, fights, sex offenses, weapons offenses, assault and battery, and vandalism.
- 2005: A randomized trial?

Stronger Accountability: School-Level Rewards & Sanctions

- Student testing in English, Mathematics, and Science, beginning in third grade.
- The tests are “high stakes” tests – student test scores are used to determine teacher performance awards and school/district financial and governance rewards and sanctions.

Does Your School/District Want to Participate in a Randomized Trial?

- Will the trial **improve** student test scores in English, Mathematics, and Science?
- Will the trial **distract** the school/district from its efforts to improve student test scores in English, Mathematics, and Science?
- Will the trial **impede** school/district efforts to improve student test scores in English, Mathematics, and Science?

More Education Information

- **No Child Left Behind:**
<http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>
- **Institute of Education Sciences:**
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ies/index.html?src=mr>
- **Protection of Human Subjects in Research:**
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/humansub.html>
- **Protection of Pupil Rights:**
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/hottopics/index.html>
- **Scientifically Based Evaluation Methods Priority:**
<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2005-1/012505a.html>