

# Research Compliance Office

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## Survey Research in Public Schools

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Non-Medical IRB Education  
March 2009



# The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)



- Federal law regarding student privacy and parental access to information. (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98)
- Different from FERPA, which requires written parental permission to access school records
- “Student” defined as elementary or secondary school student.

# Application to:



- ED funded research
- ED funded schools
- Elementary School Students
- Secondary School Students



# Instructional Materials and Surveys



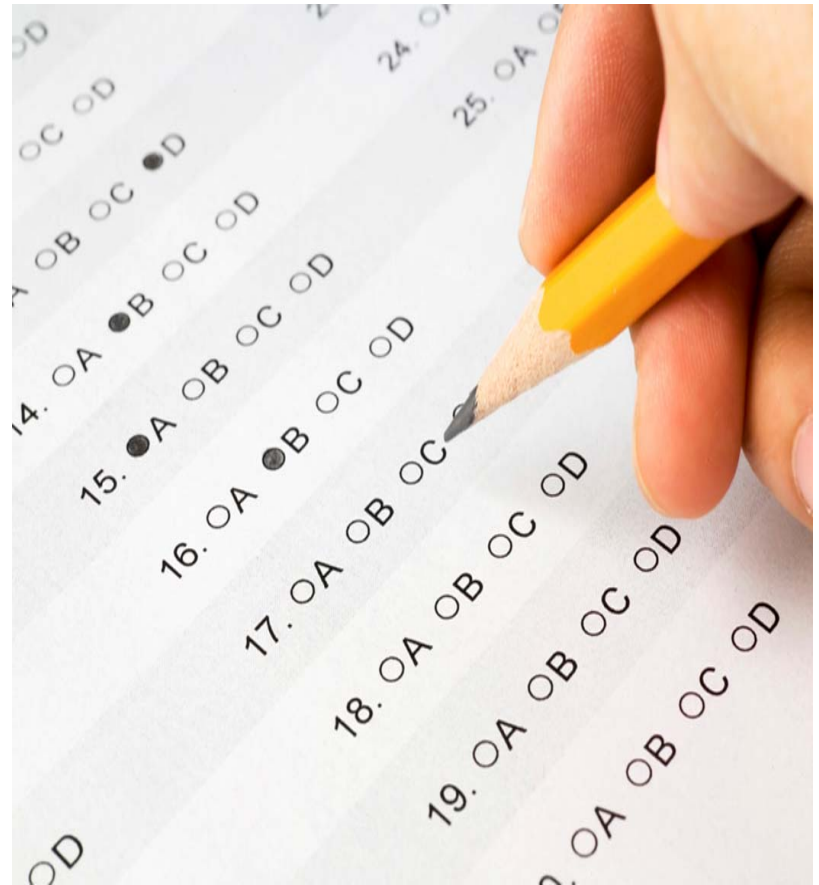
- All instructional materials which will be used in connection with any **survey, analysis or evaluation** shall be **available for inspection** by parents/guardians.
- Any format except academic tests



# Prior Written Consent



No student shall be required to submit a survey, analysis or evaluation **that reveals certain categories of information** without the **prior consent** of the student or without **prior written consent** of the parent.



# Eight “Protected” Categories



1. **Political affiliations or beliefs** of the student or the students parents;
2. **Mental or psychological problems** of the student or the student’s family;
3. **Sex behavior or attitudes**;
4. **Illegal**, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. **Critical appraisals of other individuals** with whom respondents have close family relationships;

# Protected Categories - continued



6. **Legally recognized privileged relationships**, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. **Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs** of the student or student's parent; or
8. **Income** (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

# What does this mean for the IRB?



1. Does the research include a survey or evaluation to be given to elementary or secondary school students?
2. Is the research funded by ED or performed in an ED funded school?
3. Does the survey involve “protected information?”
4. Will the survey be available for parental review?
5. Does protocol provide for parental or emancipated minor consent?



# Resources



DHHS Department of Education web site

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ppra/index.html>

Bankert, Elizabeth A and Amdur, Robert, Institutional Review Board; Management and Function, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Jones & Bartlett, Sudbury MA, 2006, pp 344-345.

PPRA and School-Based Survey Research, PPT Slides prepared by Jane E. Davis, Esq., Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, The City University of New York.