

Policy Code: 2400 STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS AND RESEARCH STUDIES

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education approves periodic cooperation with individuals and agencies wishing to conduct research in the school system insofar as the proposed research is likely to result in improved services to students without detracting from the educational mission of the school. **The superintendent shall ensure that all notification and other requirements of state law and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment are met, including all legal requirements regarding the surveying of students.** The Superintendent or designee shall review requests from individuals and/or agencies outside of the school system to distribute or administer any research project, survey, analysis, or evaluation to students. Any such instrument must be approved by the Superintendent or designee before a survey is administered or distributed to students.

Surveys or other instruments used to collect information from students that are administered by teachers or other school employees or organizations must also be approved by the superintendent or designee before a survey is administered or distributed to students, if the instrument requests information regarding one or more of the following **protected topics**:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental and psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
3. sexual 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;
6. privileged relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program; or
8. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.

For purposes of this policy, a "protected topic survey" is any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning any of the protected topics.

Right of parent/guardian to inspect certain surveys

A parent or guardian of a student has the right to inspect, upon request, any survey created by a third party (i.e., any individual that is not employed by the school system or any organization or agency that is not affiliated with the school system) and any survey that requests information regarding one of the above **protected topics categories**. The parent or guardian has the right to inspect any such survey, analysis or evaluation before it is administered or distributed to students. The parent's request to inspect should be made to the principal or designee. **A parent or guardian will be provided with reasonable access to a survey within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. At least 10 days prior to the administration of a protected topic survey, Parents and eligible students (students who are 18 years of age or older or who are emancipated minors) will be provided the opportunity to review both electronically and in person the process for providing consent to participate in the protected topic survey and the full text of the protected topic survey.**

Parental and student consent requirements

Before a student ~~shall be required to submit to a~~ **will be permitted to participate in any protected topic** survey, analysis or evaluation funded in whole or in part by a program of the United States Department of Education that requests any information regarding one of the above categories the principal or designee shall obtain prior written consent of the student's parent or guardian or the consent of the student, if the student is an emancipated minor or is 18 years of age or older. ~~For any survey, analysis, or evaluation requesting any of the above information that is funded from any other source, a parent or guardian will be given the opportunity, before the survey is administered or distributed, to request that their child be excluded from participation in the survey.~~

Notification requirements

Parents or guardians will be directly notified (for example, by U.S. mail or email) at least annually at the beginning of each school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year of the administration of all **protected topic** surveys. ~~analyses or evaluations containing or requesting any of the above information, if such dates have been identified. Thereafter, parents or guardians should be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys before such surveys are administered or distributed to allow parents to review such surveys and to allow parents to provide consent or opt their child out of participation.~~

In addition, general notification regarding the rights of parents and guardians under this policy shall be distributed at the beginning of each school year. Notice also will be provided to parents and guardians, within a reasonable period of time, regarding any revision made to this policy during the school year.

Well-Being Questionnaire and Health Screening Forms

Before any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form is administered to students in kindergarten through third grade, the principal or designee shall provide parents with a copy of the questionnaire or form and shall inform parents of the means for parents to consent to the use of the questionnaire or form for their children. See also policy 2130, Parental Involvement. If a well-being questionnaire or health screening form falls under the definition of a protected topic survey, all rules for protected topic surveys, as described above, also apply.

Collection of Student Data for Marketing Purposes

The school district will not collect, disclose or use personal student survey data for the purpose of marketing or selling the information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose. However, the district may collect anonymous survey data from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

If the district collects such information from students for this purpose upon request parents may inspect any instrument used to collect the information, before it is administered or distributed to a student.

Student privacy requirements

The superintendent or designee will make arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration or distribution of any survey, analysis or evaluation containing any of the above information.

Rights of students

The rights provided to parents and guardians under this policy transfer to the student when the student turns 18 years old or is an emancipated minor at any age.

The superintendent may establish and enforce additional reasonable rules and regulations to implement this policy.

LEGAL REF: [G.S. 115C-47\(8\)](#), [-230](#); [20 U.S.C. § 1232h](#), [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-76.25\(a\)\(11\)](#), [-76.45\(a\)\(3\)](#), [-76.65](#), [-402.15](#)

ADOPTED: June 7, 2004

AMENDED: June 4, 2012; [October 3, 2023](#)

Edenton-Chowan Schools