Educational Studies

Does the Study Qualify for Exempt Status?

(1) Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (i) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (ii) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

(2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless:

(i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

Issues to address in exempt application

What is voluntary?

• Explain what would take place for evaluation purposes regardless of the study.

• What do subjects (i.e. medical students, residents, etc.) have an option to do for research? Explain this in your submission.

Will you make use of academic records?

• Check whether or not records are academic or educational (i.e. Resident records)

• Clarify this in your application

• If you will make use of academic records, you will need to obtain informed consent. The project will not qualify for exempt status and should be submitted as a minimal risk study.

Will you make use of other records?

• Employment

• Medical—If you need to access medical records, your study does not qualify for exempt status.

What are the real risks to participants?

• Risks to academic standing or employability?

❖ Read the exemption guidance, and fill out the exemption application if your study qualifies.