

### **Proposed Project 1:**

A WVDE office proposes an evaluation of a new training model and will survey participants about the quality of the venue for learning, the logistics of the training, the quality of the training materials, and the perceived usefulness of the information presented.

*Is this research?*

*NO! This falls into the realm of “quality assurance” or “quality improvement” and is not subject to IRB review. However, best practice would dictate that survey participants’ identities be protected.*

### **Variation 1:**

A WVDE office proposes an evaluation of a new training model and will survey participants about the quality of the venue for learning, the organization of the training, the quality of the training materials, the usefulness of the information presented, and to get feedback for planning future trainings. In addition, a pre- and post-session assessment of knowledge about and use of the topic is conducted so that the office may determine the effectiveness of the training on participants’ capacity, and the utility of the training model for use by other WVDE offices.

*Is this research?*

*YES! Possibly exempt but still subject to IRB review. Again, best practice would dictate that survey participants’ identities be protected.*

### **Variation 2:**

A WVDE office proposes an evaluation of a new training model and will survey participants about the quality of the venue for learning, the organization of the training, the quality of the training materials, the usefulness of the information presented, and to get feedback for planning future trainings. Half of the trainings are face-to-face while half are by webinar. In addition, a post-session assessment of knowledge about and use of the topic is conducted by which the WVDE office intends to determine which approach, face-to-face or webinar, was more effective in increasing participants’ knowledge.

*Is this research?*

*YES! Possibly exempt but still subject to IRB review. Again, best practice would dictate that survey participants’ identities be protected.*

### **Proposed Project 2:**

An individual external to the WVDE contacts the WVDE Office of Information Systems requesting aggregate level student mathematics proficiency rates for all subgroups and all counties. He plans to use the information to compile a list of highest and lowest performing counties by subgroup.

*Is this research?*

*NO! The project involves the analysis of data from human subjects, but the individual is not seeking to make generalizations from the data. Likewise, the data being requested are not personally identifiable so a data disclosure agreement is not required. This project would not be subject to IRB review, but appropriate best practices regarding cell suppression should be observed before data are provided.*

### **Variation 1:**

An individual external to the WVDE contacts the WVDE Office of Information Systems requesting aggregate level student mathematics proficiency rates for all subgroups and all counties. He plans to use the information to compile a list of highest and lowest performing counties by subgroup. He will then compare counties that used a specific mathematics curriculum with those that used an alternative curriculum.

*Is this research?*

*YES! The project involves making a set of generalizations about the impact of a specific mathematics curriculum based upon data collected from human subjects. The project may be exempt, but should still be subject to IRB review. However, as this individual is not an employee of the WVDE, this research is not subject to review by the WVDE IRB. Furthermore, since only aggregate level data are being requested, a data disclosure agreement is probably not necessary. However, a research proposal application would be necessary prior to the release of the data. The application should include evidence of how the individual shall address IRB approval prior to conducting her/his study.*

### **Variation 2:**

An individual external to the WVDE contacts the WVDE Office of Information Systems requesting individual student-level mathematics assessment data for all counties. He plans to use the information to compare outcomes for counties using a specific mathematics curriculum with those counties using an alternative curriculum. He will also be surveying teachers in each county about their implementation of the two different curricula.

*Is this research?*

*YES! This project may very well be subject to some type of IRB review. However, as this individual is not an employee of the WVDE, this research is not subject to review by the WVDE IRB. The WVDE Offices of Information Systems and Research must also enter into a data disclosure agreement with the individual because he is requesting potentially identifiable information. The agreement may not be developed if the individual cannot produce evidence that he/she has secured approval from her/his IRB to protect the safety of research participants.*