Types of Research that the Research Review Committee Accepts for Review

What does the RRC consider "research"?

The RRC defines research very broadly. You must submit a proposal to the RRC if you propose to: (1) conduct analyses of administrative data that is not already publicly available; (2) collect any information from students, parents, teachers, or administrators; (3) conduct or record observations in a classroom, school, or after-school setting; and/or (4) recruit students, parents, or school personnel to participate in research-related activities. This includes (but is not limited to) all observations, interviews, focus groups, and surveys. If you have any questions, please email researchreview@philasd.org.

What kinds of studies does the RRC review?

The District permits five types of externally-conducted research.

1. Academic Study (Non-Dissertation)

Academic Studies are any study, whether grant-funded or not, proposed for the sole purpose of answering a specific question and/or expanding upon the current literature in any given field. Academic studies are not being completed in fulfillment of a degree (see Ph.D. or Ed.D. Dissertation, below).

2. Ph.D. or Ed.D. Dissertation

Ph.D. or Ed.D. Dissertations are accepted for review by the RRC, but are subject to additional requirements. The RRC reviews Master's thesis research proposals only for school-based SDP employees, subject to additional requirements. The RRC does not accept applications for research from Undergraduate level students. Please see our *student researcher requirements document* for more information.

3. National Survey

National Surveys are broad-scale, nationally-sampled studies that typically contribute to federally supported or mandated work.

4. Progress Monitoring for Grant-Mandated Reporting

Progress Monitoring is considered by the RRC to be minimally-invasive data collection and/or requests of aggregate administrative data. Activities may NOT include any work attempting to measure program impact. This proposal type is included to allow approved program operators to collect information about program implementation and progress to submit to funders as part of grant requirements. Individual level information cannot be provided to program operators.

5. Program Evaluation

Program Evaluation projects measure the implementation, effectiveness, and/or impact of programs and interventions. Because of the nature of program evaluation, the RRC requires all program evaluation applications to be submitted by third party evaluators. Program operators are not permitted to evaluate themselves.