



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

## INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

### **SHSU IRB Guidance:** Application of Exempt Category 1\*

\*Adapted from PRIM&R's SBER breakout session (B02) 3-DEC-2023

**Regulation:** *Research, conducted in **established or commonly accepted educational settings**, that specifically involves **normal educational practices** that are **not likely to adversely impact** students' opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special educational instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.*

This exemption includes a limitation on where the research takes place, but it does not specifically address data collection. Some other takeaways on this exemption are listed below:

- The regulations provide no limitation for how data can be collected, per se (e.g., Class observations, collection of student assignments, review of grades and attendance records, surveys/interviews, pre/posttests, etc.)
- Researchers should make it clear to reviewing HRPPs how data collection will take place and should address privacy and confidentiality as appropriate.
- This education exemption should not be viewed as a regulatory mechanism for the review of data collection methods.
- There are no regulatory restrictions on the collection and maintenance of identifiable information under this Exemption Category (e.g. potentially sensitive or damaging).

### FAQs regarding this exemption:

What do I need to do for the IRB?

**Complete the submission like normal. In your procedures, (1) describe where the research is taking place, (2) how this study would meet the "normal educational practice" criterion and (3) confirm that these activities would "not likely adversely impact" his students' opportunity to learn the content he is teaching to them.**

*Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution*

Will I need permission from the school district? School principal?

PIs will need to obtain the appropriate site permission, because in the study location within the IRB submission, the site permission attachment is required.

Will I need consent from the parents?

Since K-12 schools already have mechanisms in place for protecting its students, PIs need to check with each school in which they plan to conduct their study to see what those schools require. In the site permission letter mentioned above, schools could include a stipulation that parents would or would not need to be given information about this research. In this case, if the school does not see a reason for gathering parental consent, and the site permission is explicit in this regard, PIs could apply for a waiver of parental permission/consent based on the school's justification.