

Conducting Research at SLPS

Part I: An introduction to SLPS' research processes for internal and external investigators

SLPS Research Office

Last Updated: *23 July 2021*



Presentation Roadmap

- Define Research
- SLPS Review/Approval Process
- Who are your reviewers?



Research

Any activity aiming at increasing our body of knowledge. It encompasses all investigation, measurement, and evaluation activities - including study design, pilots, data collection and analysis, interpretation of results, and conclusions and recommendations.

Who should submit a research proposal?

- Any individual or organization conducting research in or on SLPS students, staff, schools, and programs.
- SLPS employees conducting research for graduate work

Proposal requirements & guidelines are on SLPS website, under Accountability:

<https://www.slps.org/Page/147>



IRB & SLPS Review

Why is the review process important to the district?

University / Organizational Institutional Review Board (IRB)	SLPS Research Review Committee
<p>Protecting human subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-against coercion-physical, emotional, or mental harm-confidentiality <p>Identify and minimize possible risks and ensure benefits to participation are not gained through coercion</p>	<p>Protecting students, faculty, staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-time-confidentiality-data <p>Quality of research and applicability to district priorities or needs</p>

Review / Approval Process

- Write research proposal
 - Secure site (e.g., school) & university (e.g., IRB, advisor) approval, as applicable
 - SLPS Employees will also participate in a pre-submission interview with research committee
- Submit proposal to SLPS Research
 - SLPS Research committee conducts initial review (every other month – see review dates table)
 - Questions, edits, clarifications may be requested
- Feedback/edits
 - Update proposal, incorporating district feedback (build in additional time for this)
 - Resubmit to SLPS Research
- Receive final decision
 - Generally, 4-6 weeks after submission. May be longer at certain times of the academic year (e.g., around quarter ends)
- Collect data, analyze results
 - Check-in after data collection
- Share Executive Summary Research Office & other internal SLPS stakeholders
 - Within 3 months of research end (e.g. you defend your dissertation)

SLPS Research Review Calendar 2021-22

Pre-submission interview by (SLPS requestors only):	Proposal Submitted by:	Review Date	Notification to Researcher:	Begin Data Collection (earliest possible date):
August 4, 2021	August 31, 2021	September 14, 2021	September 21, 2021	September 22, 2021
September 28, 2021	October 26, 2021	November 9, 2021	November 16, 2021	November 17, 2021
December 7, 2021	January 4, 2022	January 18, 2022	January 25, 2022	January 26, 2022
March 1, 2022	March 29, 2022	April 12, 2022	April 19, 2022	April 20, 2022
May 3, 2022	May 31, 2022	June 14, 2022	June 21, 2022	June 22, 2022 or Fall 2022 (depending on request)



Research Proposal

Persuasive Document

- Why is this research important?
- How will your proposed method answer your research question(s)?
- What approval(s) do you have to do the research?
- Why does SLPS need this study?



Factors Considered in Review/Approval

- Benefits of research to SLPS students, staff, and programs
 - SLPS need or interest in research topic
 - Consult Research Priorities, p. **19**
 - Disruption to schools, students, staff
 - Overlap with existing research or partnerships
 - To reduce burden on students & staff, proposals may not be approved if similar research or projects are already underway in the district
- Methodological soundness
 - E.g., do methods and literature review align with research question(s)?



COVID-19 & Virtual Learning

- The district does not allow recording of any video or teleconferencing of students' observation and interaction during virtual instruction
- Another adult must be present for any research involving observation or virtual interaction with students
- Teams is the SLPS-preferred platform for virtual instruction (synchronous & asynchronous), student-teacher meetings, and student presentations
 - Class Dojo and Zoom are also approved



Final Suggestions

- Can your research question be answered using publicly available data?
 - Check [DESE](#), [NCES](#), and [ICPSR](#)
- Watch use of causal language in non-causal studies
 - "what the effect of [intervention]", referencing effect sizes
- Edit & proofread



Ask a non-expert to read your proposal for clarity & questions!

Contact Us

- If you have any questions about the process or would like feedback on your proposal, please contact us at: research@slps.org
- To submit your proposal for consideration, please email all documents to research@slps.org and Cheryl.VanNoy@slps.org
 - If you are an SLPS employee, please email research@slps.org to set up a pre-submission interview

Remember: once you have submitted your proposal, it generally takes about 4 – 6 weeks to receive a final decision.

