

Research with minors

A. Purpose

To provide a summary of investigator responsibilities related when conducting research with children participants.

B. Revision history

Originally issued: February 2014

C. Persons affected

All NWSU University faculty, staff, students, and agents of the institution

D. Policy

When conducting research with children participants, additional protections are required:

- There are special protections for children as research subjects. Please refer to [45 CFR 46.404-407](#) for additional information.
- For participants under the age of 18 years old, parental consent and child assent must be obtained.
- Participants between the ages 11-17 must sign an assent form, which contains the same information as the parental consent form, but must be written at an age-appropriate level.
- Researchers must minimize risk to participants to the greatest extent possible.

When conducting research in an academic setting:

- Approval from the appropriate institutional official(s) is required. Please allow additional time for this step to ensure that you have all of the appropriate approvals in place before the projected start date of the research.
- Many school districts prohibit research activities from occurring during normal class time.
- Videotaping in classrooms is problematic because assent or and consent must be obtained in order to videotape a minor and those who do not consent or assent cannot be recorded.