

Instruction--Elementary and Secondary**RESEARCH TOWARD CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT**

Research is one important means by which ways are found to improve the program of instruction. All progress would stop if everyone waited until all of the answers were known before undertaking new procedures. Two types of research are common to public school systems. The first type is known as action research. It is conducted by an individual teacher in a study of a particular on-the-job problem. Its sole purpose is to improve the instructional practices of the teacher. Action research should be encouraged and supported by the instructional leaders in every school. It does not require any special approval beyond the principal.

The second type is fundamental research. It is conducted with the help of specialists outside the classroom to establish broad generalizations which have implications for improving educational practices on a wide scale. It is generally conducted in more than one school site and may be encouraged by the School Board, the Superintendent, senior administrators, professional organizations, employee unions, and/or citizens.

The following steps should be taken by any person involved in an experiment which is fundamental research in nature.

1. The experiment must be carefully planned with the total faculty and with community understanding.
2. Initial planning must provide for evaluation procedures which are developed with consultant assistance from the Office of Education and the Office of Educational Evaluation and Management Analysis.
3. The final plan must be developed in writing and approved by the Deputy Superintendent for Education and the appropriate Region Superintendent. In the event that more than one school wishes to participate in the experimentation, the Deputy Superintendent for Education will determine the desirable number of participants in conjunction with the Deputy Superintendent, School Operations.
4. A report may be made to the Board through the Superintendent of Schools regarding the results of the experimentation, along with plans and/or recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools regarding future development of the program if results warrant such action.

A request for experimentation from people outside the public school system or from persons seeking university degrees must be submitted for approval to the Research Review Committee.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools may operate in conjunction with universities, a laboratory school or schools for the purpose of experimentation in education. Should principals, teachers or any other interested school personnel wish to suggest studies which they think might be conducted in an established laboratory school, they should communicate their suggestions to the school's principal with copies of the proposal forwarded to the Deputy Superintendent for Education and the Office of Educational Evaluation and Management Analysis.

Miami-Dade County is a dynamic, ever-changing school system. Great numbers of curriculum improvement projects are constantly being conducted. The projects are carried out within a structure of State laws and regulations, and local policies and rules.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.23(7)(a) F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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