

**Phillips Indian Educators (PIE)**  
**American Indian Research Protocols**  
**Adopted 12-4-09**

**Introduction**

In 2005 a few Native educators who understood the need for a new kind of reform in Native education came together to form the Phillips Indian Educators (PIE). “Everyone has a piece of the PIE,” commented one of the members, noting that everyone has something to contribute and everyone has something to gain from participation.

Native survival school educators have expertise in cultural programming and flexible methods that work with Native youth; Native teachers and administrators within the mainstream school system have the resources to invest in Native learners and relationships with decision-makers throughout the system; and Native scholars and professors know the latest research practices and have expertise to train educators.

**Goals**

- All educators who work with Native youth will be versed in Native culture and Best Educational Practices.
- PIE will provide trainings to MPS teachers as a part of the District in-service training schedule.
- PIE will create an online data base for Native Best Practices.
- PIE will bring together a network of Native educators to assemble and continuously update Best Practices information.
- PIE will protect Native research subjects and the intellectual property rights of the Native community by establishing and overseeing the PIE Research Protocols which will determine who will be allowed to conduct research and how that research will be conducted and monitored.

**Rationale**

PIE is aware that researchers are knowledge brokers, people who have the power to construct legitimating arguments for or against ideas, theories or practices. Researchers are collectors of information and producers of meaning, which can be used for, or against Native interests.

Protocols have been developed to help ensure that, in all research involving Native students, staff and teachers, appropriate respect is given to the cultures, languages, knowledge and values of Native peoples.

Research that involves Native people or culture as a focal interest, directly or indirectly, should ensure that research protocols uphold the principles of protection, partnership and participation.

Where Native people are the major participants in research or they have a major interest in the outcome of a research project focused on an issue of relevance to American Indian people, then working relationships based on collaboration and partnership should be established between the researcher and participants. This would include the mutual sharing of research skills and research outcomes.

### **1. Protection**

1.1 The researcher must ensure protection of Native participants and resources in the research process, including as far as possible protection from negative impact that may result from findings of the project being made public. This may include placing a moratorium on the research materials for an agreed period of time or on keeping certain materials confidential.

### **2. Participation**

2.1 Native people have the right to participate in and enjoy the benefits that might result from research and involvement in this research.

2.2 The rationale for including, or excluding, Native people in the research project need to be made clear. Research should empower the community involved and excluding Native people might simply serve to marginalize them further.

- a. If there are no justifiable reasons for excluding Native people from participating in the research project, then suitable steps should be taken to ensure appropriate inclusion.

### **Protocols and Principles for Conducting Research in a Native Context**

The following protocols and principles are addressed to any researcher whether they are Native or non-Native.

### **3. Ethics**

3.1 The consent of the people involved in the research will be sought and confirmed before the research commences and throughout the research. Where there are no identifiable persons or groups, then an American Indian mentor/consultant group will be established for areas where public information/knowledge is cited. With regard to informed consent the researcher will need to establish who speaks for the community and what conditions of informed consent will be.

3.2 The aims of the research as well as the anticipated outcomes of such an investigation will be conveyed to the people involved in the research in a clear, concise and appropriate way.

3.3 The rights, interests and sensitivities of the people being researched will be acknowledged and protected, including the protection of intellectual property rights such as pertaining to traditional medicines, ceremonies, songs, rituals and other cultural traditions.

3.4 Research tools and techniques, which are open, direct and transparent, should be used at all times. Secret or covert work will not be acceptable. All participants will be fully informed that they are involved in the study before the study begins.

3.5 The people participating have control over the results of the research process and as such have an absolute right to exercise control over the information they have volunteered. This includes the right to control it, to restrict access to it, or withdraw part or all of the information from the actual research project findings. It is the responsibility of the researcher to clarify with research participants how this control might be exercised.

3.6 The researcher must honestly and accurately represent their skills and experience to those involved in the research.

3.7 Researchers will not exploit informants, or the information gathered from the research, for personal gain or aggrandizement. Where possible and appropriate, fair return should be given for participants' help and services, which should be acknowledged in the final report.

3.8 An important aspect of the question of ethics is values. Native values must be acknowledged by incorporation within the research design and methodology of the project such as:

- Ensure Native values are upheld at all times.
- Ensure the American Indian people are consulted and given clear direction on research activity before, during and after the research.
- Ensure that appropriate aspects of Indigenous peoples are understood, acknowledged and upheld.
- Native culture is strictly upheld.
- Ensure there are no conflicts of Native values, culture and traditions.
- This process runs throughout the project when and where appropriate.

#### **4. Accountability**

4.1 The researchers' main responsibility and accountability will be to the people involved in the activities being researched, who will be considered as having an equal interest in the project.

- a. The people participating have an absolute right to know as far as can be known what will become of the information they have volunteered as its possible use and application.

- b. Researchers must be willing to present the research to the participants, in draft form, before distribution or publication, which they will have the right of veto or censure over their contribution.
- c. The contribution of any individual or group consulted will be acknowledged in the final research report unless the individual or group wishes to remain anonymous.

## **5. Participatory Approach**

- 5.1 The terms of the research as well as the research question and methodology will be designed in consultation with, and having due consideration for, the expertise of the Native individuals or groups who will form part of the research.
- 5.2 The researcher and individual or group providing information will share continual monitoring of the research process equally.
- 5.3 As a part of the collaborative processes the research initiator will take responsibility for sharing and co-developing research skills with the research participants.

## **6. Intellectual Property Rights of Research**

In the initial consultation stage it will be necessary to establish where the ownership of the end result of the research resides:

- a. Community ownership of materials
- b. Published academic purposes (credit)
- c. Any royalties to be given to the community

## **7. Research Outcomes**

- 7.1 The research will make a positive contribution to the needs, aims and aspirations as defined by the Native people. It is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that the Native participants are clear about the aim of the research.
- 7.2 The findings of the research will be presented in a format that is understandable and accessible to all stakeholders, and particularly to those who provide the basis for the research findings.
- 7.3 A summary of the final report will be made available to any of the American Indian stakeholders.

## Phillips Indian Educators IRB Process

### Research Review Checklist

The checklist below are the key components of your research proposal that may be submitted to PIE by persons interested in conducting research on Native children in Native and public schools as well as with Native educators working in Native schools, with Native children or in Native organizations that work with Native children .

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Researcher \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Qualifications of the Researcher(s) - Attach CV(s)

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Describe your research:

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Describe your research procedures.

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What is the background and significance of your study?

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List the key background literature you will be using:

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What are your research questions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the timeline of the research project? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Enclose Supporting Documents**

Enclose copies of relevant previous publications by researcher(s)  
Enclose letters of support from researchers' institutions or departments.

**Risks and Benefits**

Describe the risks and benefits of study. For individuals, communities, and families, are risks minimized, benefits maximized and justice ensured? Explain.

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What recruitment procedures will you use to involve your research subjects?

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**Informed Consent**

How will you obtain and insure informed consent? (Include Form)

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Will the research subjects receive a copy of the form with contact information in case they have questions? \_\_\_\_\_

How will you ensure confidentiality, anonymity, security and privacy are maintained?

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Will Incentives/compensation be provided to research subjects? If yes, what and how will it be distributed?

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Do research subjects have the right to pull out of the research project at any time during the research project? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there an avenue for Native community input and feedback during the research project? \_\_\_\_\_

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Will the Native community have the right to have input about the distribution?

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**Data/Information Dissemination**

How will data/specimens be collected, handled, destroyed or stored?

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What data analysis procedures will you use?

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What is your plan for publication/dissemination of data?

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How will community members be credited for their contributions? \_\_\_\_\_

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How will the research be disseminated? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Will recommendations be made to the community for improvements in policies/services? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Budget and Funding Sources**

How is this research project being funded? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of funding and/or in-kind resources are being requested from the Native community? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who will own the information and data required by potential funders? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclose budget for research project.

Enclose copies and status of grant applications.

Return all requests to: %Dr. Roxanne Gould and Joe Rice  
Center School  
2412 Bloomington Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
Email: Roxanne.Gould@mpls.k12.mn.us



