



# Ethics in Research Agreement

Dear students and parents:

At Rio Rancho Public Schools, we are committed to bringing students the opportunity to conduct research at the pre-college level. Research is a critical aspect of education and of our society. Schools and industry looking for emerging talent are increasingly emphasizing this importance.

Rio Rancho Public Schools is affiliated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and therefore, all projects entered require a proposal to be submitted to the school's Science Review Committee. The committee's purpose is not necessarily to scrutinize the viability of the project, but rather to review safety, privacy, and other issues of accepted ethical behavior in research.

The students have the opportunity to compete for tens of thousands of dollars in prize money and awards each year. Additionally, many projects are chosen to move on to regional, state, and international competition. Countless hours are spent by hundreds of students, and the results of their labor are impressive to say the least.

As such, it is critical that we maintain a high degree of integrity in the research that is conducted at our Expos. The following list includes behaviors that are not allowed, and infractions may result in significant consequences. Please read over them carefully.

- **Not following the procedure(s) in the experimental design approved by the SRC** – *Does not include minor logistical and other convenience alterations, but applies to changes that may affect human safety and privacy, humane treatment of animals, property damage, liability issues, EXPO protocol and regulations, or the intent of the project. When in doubt, please contact your school's SRC Chair.*
- **Misrepresenting experimental results in any way, which includes the following:**
  - Altering collected data
  - Adding trials that were not performed
  - Any other form of data fabrication
- **Claiming credit for work not done by the student.** - *If it's not your work or idea, make sure you cite the proper owner.*
- **Copying another person's experimental design (in full or part), including but not limited to another student at RRPS, or cut and pasting off of the Internet or other source, even if proper citation credit is given.** The project must be your work. It is ok to get the idea from someone or somewhere else, but be sure to cite proper credit. Parenthetical citation in addition to credit in the bibliography is recommended. If building a piece of test equipment is necessary for data collection, but not the purpose of the project itself, it is okay to cut and paste the construction plans verbatim off of a source, but make sure you include a citation at the bottom of the plans as well as in your bibliography.
- **Making up the project, entirely or in part.**
- **Conducting the project before SRC approval** – *Does not include preliminary investigations for hypothesis development.*
- **Forging any signatures on paperwork**
- For human subjects projects – **not following the exact protocol submitted on Form 4 and in the project design** – *Particularly important because of Federal regulations governing human subject research.*

Violations of any of the above can result in a zero on the entire project (usually worth 10% of the semester grade), Friday or Saturday school, and the return of all money, awards, plaques, and other recognition that may have been won. Suspect projects may be investigated by the Science Review Committee, Ethics Committee, and/or school administration.

<p style="text-align: center;">Students – please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions stated above, and agree to adhere to those standards.</p> <p>Student's name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parents – please sign to indicate that you have read and understand the conditions stated above. Please contact Rob Keeney at 896-5773 or rkeeney@rrhs.rrps.k12.nm.us with any questions.</p> <p>Parent's name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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