**Exemption Category 1**

**Educational Research** [45 CFR 46.104(d)(1)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/part-46/section-46.104#p-46.104(d)(1))

This exemption covers research conducted in established educational settings and involving normal educational practices, so long as the research is not likely to adversely affect students’ opportunity to learn required content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

**Protocol Title** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Principal Investigator Name** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Faculty Sponsor Name (if applicable)** Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Is the research conducted in an established or commonly accepted educational setting?**

In addition to schools and colleges, an educational setting could be any place where educational activities regularly take place, including an after-school program, workplace, library, or a museum.

[ ] **No** – [This project does not qualify for Exemption 1.]

[ ] **Yes** - **(continue to 1a)**

**1.a. Identify the educational setting**. Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Does the research involve normal educational practices ONLY?**

The research must focus on normal educational practices. Examples of normal educational practices include:

* Research on regular and special educational instruction strategies.
* Research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among accepted instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.
* May include the use of technology, such as an online course or use of computer software.

Research that collects information about personal characteristics, beyond basic demographics, of students, families, or teachers, such as mental health, personal beliefs or opinions beyond those associated with the curriculum or learning, is not exempt under this category.

[ ] **Yes, the research involves ONLY normal educational practices** (continue to 3)

[ ] **No** [The project does not qualify for Exemption 1.]

1. **Is the research likely to adversely affect students’ opportunity to learn required educational content?** The research should not take time or attention away from normal instruction in a way that might negatively impact student achievement (e.g. negative impact on student standardized test scores or time away from required curriculum).

[ ] **Yes, the research is likely to adversely affect student learning.** [The project does not qualify for exemption 1.]

[ ] **No** (no adverse impact – continue to 4)

1. **Is the research likely to adversely affect the assessment of educators who provide instruction?** Research designed to evaluate the practice of individual teachers or that takes time away from normal instruction (as described above) could adversely impact the assessment of educators.

[ ] **Yes, the research is likely to adversely affect the assessment of instructors.** [The project does not qualify for exemption 1.]

[ ] **No** (no adverse impact – continue to 5)

1. **Does the research require access to student education records?** Education records include any records held by the educational institution that contain personally identifiable information about students, including records related to an individual student’s performance, such as written or electronic records typically found in transcripts (grades/courses/GPA/test scores), student work products such as tests, homework assignments and interactions with online student learning systems.

[ ] **No (**continue to 6)

[ ] **Yes (**read note below)

Note: Student education records are accessible to and used by instructors, teachers, and administrators for the purposes of conducting the duties of their job. For example, as part of a teacher’s job, there is natural access to student’s assignments, test scores, and attendance records to evaluate performance and ultimately assign a grade.  However, this same teacher cannot use this natural access for other intents and purposes, ***such as research***.  If a teacher/instructor wants to use student data ***for research purposes***, FERPA applies and consent is required, unless one of the exceptions to consent is met. UVM’s policy on research conducted in public schools can be found [here](https://www.uvm.edu/rpo/irb-policies-and-procedures#Public_Schools).

1. **Provide a summary of your research:**

**6a. Include the study objectives & purpose:**

**6b. Describe the participant population and process for recruitment:**

**6c. Describe study procedures including:** the anticipated time commitment for each study procedure; if procedures are conducted in person or virtually, including on what platforms they are hosted; if any procedures are recorded (audio and/or video), please include programs used for recording and transcription**.**

**6d. Data storage and analysis including:** storage locations, physical and electronic security, who has access to the data, how long it will be stored, and data sharing.