



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

January 4, 2021

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Members of the General Assembly of Virginia
Pocahontas Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I am pleased to submit this memorandum to meet the intent of Section 22.1-16.1 of the *Code of Virginia* that requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to report annually on any research projects conducted or authorized by the agency that meet the definition of human subjects research and require review. The report contains a list of research studies initiated in calendar year 2020 that meet this reporting requirement.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Dr. Dave Myers, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Data, Research, and Technology, at (804) 225-2757 or dave.myers@doe.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lane".

James F. Lane, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

JFL/JPR

c: The Honorable Atif Qarni
Secretary of Education



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Report

Human Subjects Research Report

Presented to:

Governor of Virginia

General Assembly of Virginia

January 4, 2021

Virginia Department of Education

P. O. Box 2120

Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

AUTHORITY FOR THE REPORT

Section 22.1-16.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to report annually on any research projects conducted or authorized by the agency that meet the definition of human subjects research. See Appendix A for statute language from the *Code of Virginia*.

OVERVIEW

VDOE follows a prescribed process, outlined in the agency’s administrative manual, for the approval of research involving human subjects. In brief, researchers are required to submit their research proposals for review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and provide documentation of the completed review and the IRB determination to agency staff before sensitive data are released or research subjects are contacted.

The majority of research studies authorized by the VDOE rely on administrative data from the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS). In addition to an IRB review, research projects using VLDS require additional review by VDOE’s Data Governance Committee. This committee is responsible for making sure the requested student-level data are used, transferred, and secured appropriately and consistent with state and federal data privacy and protection laws.

APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Table 1 provides the project title, lead researcher, affiliated organization, and IRB review status for all research projects that were initiated in calendar year 2020 under VDOE’s authorization.

Table 1. Research Projects Initiated in Calendar Year 2020

VDOE Contract Number/ Project Title	Lead Researcher	University/Organization	Institutional Review Board Review
7.4-PR8173684-2019 CodeRVA Full Evaluation Study	Jesse Senechal	Virginia Commonwealth University	Expedited Review
9.4-PR9000798-2020 Robust and Equitable Measures to Inspire School Quality	Natalie Lacireno-Paquet	WestEd	Expedited Review
9.4-PR8910063-2020 Virtual Virginia Evaluation	Jessica Mislevy	SRI International	Exempt Review
7.4-PR9080601-2020 Increasing Supply of Critically Needed Special Educators	Andrew Wojcik	Virginia Commonwealth University	Exempt Review
7.4-PR8840016-2020 School Climate	Luke Miller	University of Virginia	Exempt Review

APPENDIX A

§22.1-16.1 of the *Code of Virginia*

The Board shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) to effectuate the provisions of Chapter 5.1 (§ 32.1-162.16 et seq.) of Title 32.1 for human research, as defined in § 32.1-162.16, to be conducted or authorized by the Department of Education or any public schools including the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind or any proprietary schools certified by the Board. The regulations shall require the human research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee at least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved.