Prairie Spirit School Division
Ethical Considerations for Research
Appendix B
AP-401 Research

Spectrum of Risk	Examples	Safeguards
Unacceptable Risk	• Blind trials • Deception that may cause harm • Research "on" rather than "with" identifiable groups	Rethink the research methodology/research
High Risk	• Sensitive research in collaboration with a particular group • Research with potential to identify the participants • Research that includes deception	Collaboration at the University level
Medium Risk	• Interviewing a group of students about a particular issue • Classroom wide research involving a "sensitive" topic • Research focusing on an identifiable group	Mentorship at the University level
Low Risk	• Action research with your students in your classroom where the entire class participates • Meeting with other teachers in a focus group setting to discuss/design the implementation of an initiative • Reasonable assurance of anonymity	School division project approval/support process

Please answer the following questions with regards to the proposed research:

• Review the matrix above. Where does the research fall on the spectrum of risk?

• Will the research identify individual students accidentally or to those that know the student well? Are there ways confidentiality or anonymity can be built into the research plan? (If confidentiality and anonymity cannot be maintained, it is best to have the students and parent/guardian informed and consent to the research knowing confidentiality and anonymity cannot be guaranteed).

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- Is there any risk to the student participating in the research? Is there any possibility the student's academic opportunities may be detrimentally impacted?

- Will the teacher/student relationship be in any way negatively impacted?

- How will the parents/guardians of underage students be informed of the research and how will consent be sought?

I/We agree to conduct research according to the ethical guidelines as set out by Prairie Spirit School Division's ethical considerations for research.

Name	*Signature*