IRB POLICY ON RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Summary/Purpose: Requirements for human subjects researchers to obtain permission to conduct research in schools and other organizations.

The IRB requires that researchers obtain permission from the appropriate authorities when conducting research at institutions which do not have an IRB. For schools, this is generally either the superintendent of the school district, or the principal(s) of the school(s) in which research will be conducted. Researchers should call the superintendent’s office to ask about their research policy. Documentation of the school’s approval should be provided to the UM IRB in the form of a letter on school letterhead.

If the school district, hospital, mental health facility, or other institution has its own IRB or research review committee, researchers must provide documentation of that IRB’s approval with the submission of their IRB application to UM.* Memphis City Schools and the Tupelo school district have a central research review committee.

*Exception: If research will be conducted at one of the Baptist Memorial hospitals in the region, the IRB protocol will be reviewed only by the central Baptist IRB, and not by the University of Mississippi’s IRB. Researchers should contact the UM IRB Coordinator for details.