

Levels of Ethical Risk

No Risk Research

- Exempt from review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Research studying normal educational practices.
- Use of educational tests – cognitive tests such as aptitude and achievement measures.
- Surveys and observation of public behavior, *except* in cases in which subjects might be identified and sensitive behavior is being studied.
- Archival research using existing data.

Minimal Risk Research

- Routine approval by an IRB procedure, usually one member of the IRB who determines minimal risk and reports approval to the IRB.
- Standard physiological measures and voice recordings that do not involve any danger to subjects.
- Studies of cognition and perception that do not involve stress.
- Full informed consent is generally not necessary, but debriefing and other ethical concerns are important.

Full Review Research

- Research that may involve physical stress, psychological stress, invasions of privacy, measures of sensitive information in which subjects might be identified, and so on.
- Requires full review by an IRB; special ethical procedures may be imposed.