

Central New Mexico STEM Research Challenge



Forming a Local Scientific Review Committee (SRC) or Institutional Review Board (IRB)

WHEN MUST STUDENT RESEARCH BE LOCALLY REVIEWED?

ALWAYS! However, many research projects can often be reviewed by the adult sponsor or classroom teacher without the need for a local review committee. This should be done prior to the commencement of research. ***Make sure you know which projects require SRC/IRB review by becoming familiar with the ISEF Rules.*** An online copy of the rules is available at:

<https://sspcdn.blob.core.windows.net/files/Documents/SEP/ISEF/2022/Rules/Book.pdf>

WHEN MUST AN APPROPRIATE APPOINTED COMMITTEE REVIEW STUDENT RESEARCH?

ANY RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING SURVEYS), NONHUMAN VERTEBRATE ANIMALS, POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, RECOMBINANT DNA, AND HUMAN/ANIMAL TISSUE MUST BE REVIEWED BY A REVIEW COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF RESEARCH!

WHEN SHOULD A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGIN TO ORGANIZE A REVIEW COMMITTEE?

IMMEDIATELY! Each September or October, local school districts should **officially** appoint a committee with appropriate membership to review and approve student research projects that require prior approval. A list of committee members and their credentials **must** be forwarded to the regional science fair office as soon as possible.

WHAT IS THIS REVIEW COMMITTEE CALLED?

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF REVIEW COMMITTEES!

A general review committee, the **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)**, examines projects for the following according to Intel ISEF Rules:

- 1) evidence of library search
- 2) evidence of proper supervision
- 3) use of accepted research techniques
- 4) completed forms, signature, and dates
- 5) humane treatment of animals
- 6) compliance of rules and laws governing human and animal research
- 7) appropriate use of recombinant DNA, pathogenic organisms, controlled substances,
- 8) human/animal tissue, and hazardous substances and devices

A second review committee, the **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** is a committee that, according to federal law, must evaluate the potential physical or psychological risk of research involving human participants. All proposed human research must be reviewed and approved **prior** to experimentation! This includes the research plan as well as any questionnaires or surveys to be used in the project. **A local school or school district can combine both the SRC and IRB into ONE review committee as long as all prerequisites for both committees are met.**

WHO MUST SERVE ON A LOCAL SRC/IRB/ACUC COMMITTEE?

IN ORDER TO COMBINE BOTH REVIEW COMMITTEES, THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF FOUR PERSONS WHO SERVE ON THE LOCAL SRC/IRB.

- 1) a biomedical scientist (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., or D.O)
- 2) an educator (the teacher supervising the student may NOT serve on the committee)
- 3) a school administrator
- 4) **one** of the following: medical doctor, physician's assistant, registered nurse, psychiatrist, a licensed psychologist, or licensed social worker/counselor.

If the project involves human behavior, a psychologist, psychiatrist, or individual with human behavioral training must serve on the committee. If students are using non-human vertebrate animals, then a veterinarian or an individual with training in animal care **must** serve on the committee. **ALL** PROJECTS INVOLVING VERTEBRATE ANIMALS WITH WORK BEING DONE AT A REGISTERED RESEARCH INSTITUTION MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THAT INSTITUTION'S IACUC PRIOR TO THE RESEARCH BEGINNING (*see Form 5B*). **Back-dating of any required paperwork will NOT be accepted for any reason.** Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification from competition.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP? WHERE DO I START? HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

IF YOU NEED HELP FORMING A LOCAL SRC/IRB, contact your Intel ISEF Affiliated Fair Director. You are also welcome to contact Karen Kinsman, Director/Sr. Program Manager of STEM Education Outreach Programs at the University of New Mexico (505) 277-4916 or kkinsman@unm.edu.



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