



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SYSTEMS INNOVATION**


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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: November 6, 2015

To: Karen Janney, Ed.D., Superintendent

From: Dianna Carberry, Ed.D., Asst. Supt., Leadership Development and Systems Innovation 

RE: Civil Rights Project with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), University of California, Riverside (UCR), and University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

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In September of this year members of the Civil Rights Project representing UCLA, UCR, and UCSD met with district staff to discuss the possibility of entering into a regional study regarding Mapping the Educational and Economic Terrain: Southern California, Northern Baja: A Collaborative Study under the Umbrella of the University of California-Mexico Education Initiative. Dr. Patricia Gandara of UCLA, a well-known researcher and English Language Learner expert, is leading the project. We discussed the research, our district's participation, the survey they wish to give to our tenth grade students in all our high schools, and the sharing of the outcomes of the study with our district and community. Upon review of our Board Policy 6162.8, Survey and Research on Students, staff provided Dr. Gandara a letter from our district for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) as confirmation of our support for the study.

District staff are in the process of solidifying the details of our commitment to the study. Attached you will find the letter to the IRB and a synopsis of the study.

DC:ygh  
Attachments: IRB Letter  
Study Synopsis



**“...ensuring all students possess and invincible sense of promise”**

Dr. Dianna Carberry, Assistant Superintendent Leadership Development and Systems Innovation  
1130 Fifth Avenue  
Chula Vista CA 91911  
(619) 585-4490

University of California, Los Angeles  
Dr. Patricia Gandara,

This letter will serve as support of the Sweetwater Unified High School District (SUHSD) for the Civil Rights Project to conduct a research study with our district. The district agrees to provide researchers access to high school students in the district to conduct surveys.

Per our Board Policy 6162.8 and Administrative Regulation 6162.8 research must meet the following criteria:

- A. The perceived results of the research effort would be of direct and significant benefit to the students and instructional programs in the district.
- B. The research design has been presented to and approved by the superintendent or his/her designee and all research instruments, including but not limited to questionnaires, surveys, and interview forms, have been submitted to and approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- C. No test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about the pupil's personal beliefs or Practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion, or any question about the pupil's parents' or guardians' Beliefs and practices in sex, family life, morality, and religion, shall be administered unless the parent or guardian of the pupil is notified in writing that the test, questionnaire, survey or examination is to be administered and gives written permission.
- D. A copy of the final research result, including analysis and conclusions, shall be presented to the superintendent.
- E. The board shall have the right to refuse publications rights if it believes that the research was not carried out according to the highest standards of research, that the analysis and/or conclusions presented a biased or incorrect position, or that the research was not carried out according to the approved research design.
- F. In conducting any research on students, adequate care shall be taken to protect the privacy right of individuals or staff records.

A copy of our Rules on Research on Students is attached for further clarification.

I have reviewed these policies and regulations with Dr. Patricia Gandara and find that the proposed research design, instrumentation, methodology, and evaluation conform to approved research standards. Upon the approval of the study by the IRB, please provide our district with a copy of the authorization, at which time the district will provide final approval to conduct this research study in our district.

Sincerely,

*“The Sweetwater Union High School District, does not discriminate with regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry/ethnicity, marital or parental status, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or any other unlawful consideration.  
SUHSD Board Policy #2224”*

**Mapping the Educational and Economic Terrain: Southern California, Northern Baja: A Collaborative Study under the Umbrella of the University of California-Mexico Education Initiative**

Contact: Patricia Gándara, Ph.D.  
Civil Rights Project, UCLA  
Gandara@gseis.ucla.edu

The cross-border metropolis incorporating the greater San Diego, California region and south to Ensenada, Baja California is a vital economic engine for both the U.S. and Mexico. The region is a global powerhouse for advanced manufacturing and life sciences. As such the educational outcomes for the youth in this region are high stakes for California as well as for Mexico. The proposed study is a collaboration among the Civil Rights Project at UCLA (CRP), the UCSD Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (USMEX), UC Riverside's School of Education, el Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) and la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), working in concert with school districts in San Diego County and the Municipality of Tijuana. The study takes the perspective that the two nation's futures are very interconnected and that we are losing too many youth from the K- higher education pipeline across the region.

The study's objective is to take a focused look at the factors that impact the educational outcomes and professional aspirations of students in the region, as well as the ways in which the access to opportunities on both sides of the border can serve to expand their educational and professional horizons. This will involve surveying a sample of students in all Sweetwater high schools, preferably during January 2016, with questions about their schooling experience and educational and professional aspirations. Identifying themselves will be completely voluntary and surveys will meet the highest privacy standards. For purposes of comparing students to Mexican counterparts and students in 15 other countries, we will also administer a short PISA based math and reading test (40 minutes total). To the extent possible, we will also want to include teachers and principals in a short survey. All survey materials will be shared with the district well beforehand, and we are confident that they are well aligned with the district policy of not touching on sensitive personal areas. All findings will also be shared with the district in as many formats as are desirable for the district (presentations, reports, etc.).

This work will provide policymakers and educational practitioners with insight that can support the creation and implementation of improved policies and programs for these students that can help strengthen the economy of the region. It can also serve as a model for broader interventions across both nations where hundreds of thousands of such youth are caught in a limbo between school systems. And, it allows educators and policymakers a window into the needed resources for the youth population residing in the region, and issue that we believe has received too little attention.