



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
4400 WEST 18th STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092-8501

ABELARDO SAAVEDRA, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent
Research and Accountability Department
Tel: 713-556-6700 • Fax: 713-556-6730

November 25, 2008

Melody Rose Barker
Department of Agriculture
923 Sycamore St.
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear Ms. Baker:

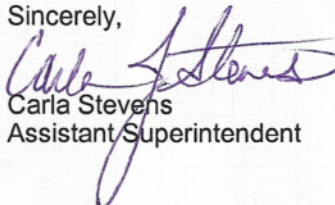
The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is pleased to approve the study "The Effect of Gardening Activities on Motor Skill Development of Pre-K and Kindergarten Students." The study is being conducted in partial fulfillment of the doctoral degree in the Department of Agriculture at Texas State University - San Marcos. The proposed completion date of the study is May 31, 2009.

Approval to conduct the study in HISD is contingent on your meeting the following conditions:

- Students enrolled in schools that participate in the Harris County AgriLife Extension Cylinder Gardening Project will comprise the experimental group. Students attending schools not participating in the gardening project will serve as the control group.
- To test motor skills, both experimental and control group students will be administered the Beery Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration - Short Form. The test requires approximately 15 minutes and can be administered in an individual or group format.
- A questionnaire will be sent home for parents of study participants to gain information about their daily activities and the demographic characteristics of the family. Questions are designed to provide information regarding factors that may contribute to motor development.
- Active, signed consent is required of student participants. Voluntary consent is required of parent participants.
- The school principal approves participation of students and school staff for data collection.
- HISD, district personnel, nor students will be identified in reports of findings.
- The principal will receive a copy of the entire proposal.
- The investigator will follow the guidelines of HISD and the Texas State University - San Marcos regarding confidentiality.
- The study does not interfere with the districtwide instructional/testing program.

Any changes or modifications to the current proposal must be submitted to the Department of Research and Accountability for approval. Should you need additional information or have any questions concerning the process, please call (713) 556-6700.

Sincerely,



Carla Stevens
Assistant Superintendent

CS: vh

cc: Karen Garza
Michelle Pola
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Thelma Garza
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Barbara Thornhill
Tracy Weeden