Research can be approved as **EXEMPT** only if activities involving human subjects will be in one or more of the following six federally designated exempt categories. Studies that may qualify for **EXEMPT** must still be submitted to the IRB for review.

(1) Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.

**Examples:** Evaluating the use of accepted or revised standardized tests; testing or comparing a curriculum or lesson; or a program evaluation of a continuing education program.

(2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (i) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (ii) any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability or reputation.

**Examples:** Surveying teachers, nurses or doctors about a technique or an outcome; interviewing managers about a management style or best practice; or conducting a focus group about an experience or an opinion of a community program.

(3) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior if: (i) the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or (ii) federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.

**Example:** Interviewing public officials about a local or global issue.

(4) Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects.

**Example:** Analyzing existing tissue samples or data set which are recorded by the investigator without identifiers.

(5) Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate or otherwise examine: (i) Public benefit or service programs; (ii) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (iii) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (iv) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs.

**Example:** Evaluating the feasibility of using state financial assistance records to determine families eligible for free or reduced school lunch programs.

(6) Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (i) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (ii) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Example:** A study to determine the preference of green apples to red apples.

*Research activities are never exempt if the targeted participant population includes: prisoners, fetuses or pregnant women; participants will be exposed to more than minimal risk; or if the research involves deception of participants.*