



**Research Request
Digital Thinking and Literacy
June 4, 2024**

From time-to-time public school divisions in Manitoba receive requests to participate in research studies facilitated by universities. While school divisions have no obligation to participate in research projects, there is a moral consideration as this type of research is used by schools, school divisions and the province to make decisions and potentially direct programming and policy in the best interests of students and learning.

Sunrise School Division has a process to respond to these requests. The superintendent will screen the initial request to:

- assess the suitability and relevance of the project to public education
- assess the potential impact or disruption to the operation of Sunrise SD schools and student learning
- ensure the project has clearance and permission from the post-secondary institution including the relevant ethics board

Once the superintendent has given the researcher permission to contact schools, each individual principal has the autonomy to decide on participating based on local considerations. If the school chooses to participate, consent must also be given by a student's legal guardian.

Dr. Shaylene Nancekivell from the Department of Psychology at the University of Manitoba has requested the participation of kindergarten to grade 6 students. The research project titled *Digital Thinking and Literacy* will collect information on "... what children between the ages of 5 and 12 know about different concepts related to digital thinking and literacy. Some topics include privacy, rights and consent, well-being, and fairness'. The interaction between the researchers and students will be a maximum 15-minute interview where students select their answers from options on a tablet.

School administrators were provided information on this opportunity during a May 31st Operational Check-in TEAMS call. It was also made clear to administrators their school's participation was voluntary.