

Ohio University
Office of Research Compliance guidance on the letter of support

Research protocols will require a letter of support or other documentation of permission when the study will be conducted at a site outside of Ohio University, e.g., Athens City Schools, Planned Parenthood, etc., or whenever the IRB deems a letter of support is necessary. In general, the purpose of a letter of support is to provide the IRB with documentation that the site or entity is aware of the study activities and has agreed to the plan for conducting the research. The letter of support helps the IRB ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place, that the study is feasible, and the research is culturally appropriate.

A letter of support must meet the following guidelines.

- Must be on letterhead from the entity providing it
- Must contain a date
- Must be signed by an appropriate authority (for example, research in schools