Appendix I

Research Proposal Request

To: _________________, Senior Director
Research, Testing, and Statistics

From: Patricia H. Dillard

Date: September 9, 1998

Subject: Educational Research Proposal

I am a doctoral candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University working towards an Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. For my dissertation, I would like to investigate learning-inhibiting problems experienced by middle school teachers and the implications of these for staff development. I will use a qualitative-quantitative triangulation data collection approach. Data will be analyzed from teacher surveys, teacher summative evaluations, classroom observations, and structured focus group interviews. The middle school population of 271 teachers in the teaching areas of language arts, social studies, science and mathematics will be included in this study. Teachers of special education, physical education, music, art, guidance, foreign language, and vocational education will be excluded.

This study is not intended to evaluate ________________ School District, or any policy governing the middle school teachers. However, based on the results, it proposes to make recommendations for staff development of middle school teachers. The anonymity of the participants in the study will be protected at all times.

I am seeking your permission to conduct this research. I will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for considering my request.

Permission Granted   __________________________________________________________