



March 5, 2019

David L. Brunisma, PhD  
Virginia Tech  
560 McBryde Hall  
225 Stanger Street  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Brunisma:

**SUBJECT: IRB EXEMPTION—REGULATORY OPINION**  
Investigator/Sponsor Contact: David L. Brunisma, PhD  
Sponsor/Institution Protocol #: 19-158  
Protocol Title: Turn-Taking Behaviors in the Physics Classroom

This is in response to your request for an exempt status determination for the above-referenced protocol. Western Institutional Review Board's (WIRB's) IRB Affairs Department reviewed the study under the Common Rule and applicable guidance.

We believe the study is exempt under 45 CFR § 46.104(d)(1), because:

- the research is conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings
- The research specifically involves normal educational practices that are NOT likely to adversely impact students' opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction.

This exemption determination can apply to multiple sites, but it does not apply to any institution that has an institutional policy of requiring an entity other than WIRB (such as an internal IRB) to make exemption determinations. WIRB cannot provide an exemption that overrides the jurisdiction of a local IRB or other institutional mechanism for determining exemptions. You are responsible for ensuring that each site to which this exemption applies can and will accept WIRB's exemption decision.

Please note that any future changes to the project may affect its exempt status, and you may want to contact WIRB about the effect these changes may have on the exemption status before implementing them. WIRB does not impose an expiration date on its IRB exemption determinations.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Amber Billingham, BA, CIP, at 360-570-1299, or e-mail [RegulatoryAffairs@wirb.com](mailto:RegulatoryAffairs@wirb.com).

ALB:dao  
D1 Exemption – Brunisma (03-05-2019)  
cc: Amanda, Becchetti, VA Tech  
WIRB VA Tech  
WIRB Accounting  
WIRB Work Order #1-1162581-1

**Western Institutional Review Board®**

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