

Public Access to School District Records

The purpose of this policy is to establish and provide for the enforcement of reasonable rules governing the examination or the making of extracts, copies, photographs or photocopies of School District records that are public records or to which the public may have access as defined below. The District shall post at the administration building and on the District's web site, information regarding this Policy as required by law.

Procedures regarding this Policy are promulgated in the administrative regulation related to this Policy.

Open Records Officer

The Board shall designate an Open Records Officer, who shall be responsible for enforcing District Policy regarding public access to District records. Requests for information directed to individuals other than the Open Records Officer do not constitute requests for District records under this Policy.

General

The District shall not limit the number of records requested.

When responding to a request for access, the District is not required to create a record that does not exist, nor to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner which the District does not currently use.

Records Requests

The District shall not require an explanation of the reason for the request of records or the intended use of the requested record, unless permitted by law.

Original District records shall not be removed from the District building, nor from the control or supervision of the Open Records Officer or designee.

Requests for Agenda Materials

Requests for meeting agenda materials made after the meeting must be made to the Open Records Officer.

Fees

Fees for duplication and other forms of document response and, where applicable, document retrieval, will be charged according to a fee schedule which shall be periodically updated and included in a regulation issued pursuant to this Policy.

No fee may be imposed for review of a record to determine whether the record is subject to access under law.

Prior to granting access, the District may require prepayment of estimated fees when the fees required to fulfill the request are expected to exceed a set dollar amount, as indicated in a regulation issued pursuant to this Policy.

Public Access to School District Records Which Do Not Qualify as Public Records Under State Law

The primary responsibility of the administration and teaching staff of the District is the education of the students. The Board and administration will establish procedures for fulfilling individual requests for information. In providing that information, the Board believes it is appropriate to balance the public requests for information with the time constraints of the administration and the teaching staff.

If the records requested do not fall under the definition of “public records” previously set forth in this Policy, and are not exempted from inspection by law, in addition to the aforementioned fees, the District will charge a retrieval fee for administrative and clerical time. The District reserves the right to decline to respond to a record retrieval request for such records if deemed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee to constitute an undue burden on staff.

The determination of whether the requested information is a “public record” or information to which the public may have access will be made by the Open Records Officer in consultation with the District Solicitor’s office.

Adopted: June 3, 2002
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