

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Public Access to District Records

Consistent with Washington State law, the Board is committed to providing the public full access to records concerning the administration and operations of the District. Such access promotes important public policy, maintains public confidence in the fairness of government processes, and protects the community's interest in the control and operation of its common school district. At the same time, the board desires to preserve the efficient administration of government and acknowledges the privacy rights of individuals whose records may be maintained by the District. This policy and the accompanying procedure are intended to facilitate access to school district records without compromising operational efficiency or privacy rights.

As used in this policy and the accompanying procedure, "school district records" is a broad term that includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the district or the performance of any District governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained by the District regardless of physical form or characteristic. A "writing" as used in this policy and procedure is likewise a broad term that means any handwriting, typewriting, printing, photocopying, photographing, or other means of recording any form of communication on representation. Included within these definitions are digital and electronic forms of communication, including emails, texts or messages through any medium or application, pages, posting and comments from any District-operated or District-sponsored website. The District will retain public records in compliance with state law and regulations. "School District records" do not include the personal notes and memoranda of staff which remain in the sole possession of the maker and which are not generally accessible or revealed to other persons.

The definition of "school district records" does not include records that are not otherwise required to be retained by the District and are held by volunteers who do not service in an administrative capacity, have not been appointed by the District to a District board, commission, or internship, and do not have a supervisory role or delegated District authority.

Because of the tremendous volume and diversity of records continuously generated by a public school district, the Board has declared by formal resolution that trying to maintain a current index of all of the District's records would be impractical, unduly burdensome, and ultimately interfere with the operational work of the District. Additionally, the Board hereby finds that it would be unduly burdensome to calculate the costs of producing public records, given the multiple different electronic and manual devices used to produce public records, as well as the fluctuating costs of District supplies and labor.

The Superintendent will develop – and the board will periodically review – procedures consistent with state law that will facilitate this policy. The Superintendent will also appoint a "Public Records Officer " who will serve as a point of contact for members of the public who request the disclosure of public records. The Public Records Officer will be trained in the laws

and regulations governing the retention and disclosure of records, and shall oversee the District's compliance with this policy and state law.

Cross References: 3231 Student Records

Legal References: Chapter 5.60 RCW WITNESS – COMPETENCY
 Chapter 13.04.155(3) RCW Notification to school principal of conviction, adjudication, or diversion agreement – Provision of information to teachers and other personnel – Confidentiality
 Chapter 26.44.010 RCW Declaration of purpose
 Chapter 26.44.030(9) RCW Reports – Duty and authority to make – Duty of receiving agency – Duty to notify – Case planning and consultation – Penalty for unauthorized exchange of information – Filing dependency petitions – Investigations – Interviews of children – Records – Risk assessment process
 Chapter 28A.605.030 RCW Student education records – Parental review – Release of records – Procedures
 Chapter 28A.635.040 RCW Examination questions – Disclosing – Penalty.
 Chapter 40.14 RCW Preservation and destruction of public records
 Chapter 42.17A RCW Campaign Disclosure and Contribution
 Chapter 42.56 RCW Public Records Act
 WAC 392-172A Rules for the provision of special education
 Public Law 98-24, Section 527 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 USC 290dd-2
 20 U.S.C. 1232g Federal Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA)
 20 U.S.C. 1400 et. seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 42 U.S.C 1758(b)(6)

34 CFR, Part 300 – Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities
 45 CFR, Part 160-164 – General Administrative Requirements, Administrative Requirements and Security and Privacy

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