Book Policy Manual

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Title Copy of PUBLIC RECORDS

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Status

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8310 - PUBLIC RECORDS

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to maintain the public records of this District and to make such records available for inspection and reproduction.

Under the Wisconsin Public Records Law, a "record" is defined as any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual, or electromagnetic information or electronically generated or stored data is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that has been created or is being kept by the authority. It includes handwritten, typed, or printed pages, maps, charts, photographs, films, recordings, tapes, optical discs, and any other medium on which electronically generated or stored data is recorded or preserved. A "record" does not include drafts, notes, preliminary computations, and like materials prepared for the originator's personal use or prepared by the originator in the name of a person for whom the originator is working; materials that are purely the personal property of the custodian and have no relation to his/her office; materials to which access is limited by copyright, patent, or bequest; and published materials in the possession of an authority other than a public library that are available for sale, or that are available for inspection at a public library. The personal use exception applies to notes created by the originator solely for the purpose of refreshing his/her recollection and as a matter of convenience (not part of his/her job duties), but does not apply to notes that are distributed to others for the purpose of communicating information or notes that are created or retained for the purpose of memorializing agency activity.

In addition, records may be exempted from disclosure as a matter of statute or common law or, under the balancing test, the public interest in disclosure may be outweighed by the public interest in non-disclosure.

The public records of this District include any writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the District, its Board, officers, or employees to the extent such writings are within the definition of public records under applicable law. "Public records" do not include notes for the personal use of the author, medical records, documents containing genetic information, trial preparation records, confidential law enforcement investigatory records, records the release of which is prohibited by State or Federal law.

Any person may make an oral or written request for any public records of the District. The person may inspect, copy, or receive copies of the public record requested. The District will shall respond as soon as practicable and without delay. The District will either provide the requested documents, subject to any redactions, or inform to the requester providing the requested documents or informing the requester of the District's decision to deny the request. intent to deny access providing specific explanation regarding the decision to deny access.

The District will comply with the No public records, including, but not limited to, personnel records, personnel files, or staff directories or student records shall include the actual/confidential addresses of students, parents, or employees who are participating in the Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Such public records and student records shall only contain the address designated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice to serve as the student's, parent's, or employee's address. (See Policy 5111 - Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students, Policy 8320 - Personnel Records and Policy 8330 - Student Records.)

The District may impose a fee upon the requester of a copy of a record of \$0.15 per page, which represents the actual, necessary, and direct cost of reproduction of the record. In addition, the District may impose a fee upon a requester for the actual time spent by District employees in locating a record, if the cost is \$50.00 or more. In calculating location costs, the District will use the applicable employee's hourly rate for salary and benefits.

The District may also charge the requester for any equipment required to fill the request (such as videotapes, computer disks, etc.) The District may impose a fee upon a requester for the actual, necessary, and direct cost of mailing or shipping of any copies which are mailed or shipped to the requester.

The District may require prepayment of fees if the total amount exceeds \$5.00. If payment is required, the District will calculate the actual cost and charge the requester. If advance payment is required, the District will either invoice the requester for the difference between the estimate and actual cost or refund any overpayment.

A resident may purchase copies of the District's public records upon payment of a fee. In cases where the cost of locating and reproducing the requested record is estimated to exceed \$50, the Superintendent may require advance payment of the estimated cost from the requestor prior to fulfilling the request. The District may charge fees for the actual time spent by District employees in locating the record at the applicable employee's hourly rate for salary and benefits, as well as a reproduction cost of \$0.15 per page. The District may also charge the requestor for any equipment required to fill the request (such as video tapes, computer disks, etc.). If payment is required, the District will calculate the actual cost and charge the requestor. If advance payment is required, the District will either invoice the requestor for the difference between the estimate and actual cost or refund any overpayment.

No public record may be removed from the office in which it is maintained except by a Board officer or employee in the course of the performance of his/her duties.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as preventing a Board member from inspecting in the performance of his/her official duties any record of this District, except student records and certain portions of personnel records.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines to ensure proper compliance with the intent of this policy and the public records law.

Records Retention Schedule

The District <u>has adopted will follow</u> the Wisconsin Department of <u>Public Instruction's</u> <u>Administration's</u> guidelines on School District record retention.

The most recent edition of the guidelines is dated May, 2010/Revised June 2015. It may be accessed at the following web address:

http://publicrecordsboard.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=15892&locid=165

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Legal 19.21, Wis. Stats.

19.31-39, Wis. Stats.

120.13(12), Wis. Stats.

Last Modified by Jennifer Hagemann on November 27, 2018