

POLICY 6000

Public Records Access and Management

A. Policy Purpose

1. This policy is adopted pursuant to the Government Records Access and Management Act [Utah Code § 63G-2-701](#) (“GRAMA”) and applies to District records relating to information practices, including classification, access, appeals, management and retention of documents.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-701 \(2019\)](#)

B. Privileged Document

1. The District reserves the right to claim a privilege with respect to all documents which are subject to attorney work product, attorney-client, physician-patient, psychiatrist-patient or other statutory privilege.
2. A person may request access to the District's records free of charge, if that person meets the requirements set forth in this policy.

C. Records Officer

1. The District Business Administrator is hereby designated as the Records Officer as the Superintendent's appointed “records officers” he/she is to work with Division of Archives and Records Service in the care, maintenance, scheduling, designation, classification, disposal, and preservation of records. Each records administrator shall, on an annual basis, successfully complete online training and obtain certification from Division of Archives and Records Service.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-103 \(24\) \(2018\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-108 \(2012\)](#)

D. Public Records

1. Public records shall include official minutes, actions and decisions of the Board of Education and District Administration unless the record involves information which is classified as private, controlled or protected. Public records also include official District and school policies, contracts, minutes, accounts, employment records to the

extent they disclose only names, gender, job titles, job descriptions, business addresses, business telephone numbers, gross salaries, working hours and dates of employment. Public records shall also include formal criminal charges or disciplinary actions against a current or former employee if the disciplinary action has been completed, all time periods for administrative appeal have expired, and the charges on which the disciplinary action was based were sustained. [Utah Code § 63G-2-301 \(2018\)](#)

E. Appropriate Requester of Records

1. For purposes of this policy, “records” do not include: temporary drafts or other materials prepared for the originator's personal use or for the personal use of another, **a daily calendar, ~~personal~~ notes prepared by the originator for the originator's own use or for the sole use of an individual for whom the originator is working**, notes kept in personal journals, diaries or other day timers, notes of informal observations, notes of evaluations or materials owned by the originator in his or her private capacity, documents relating to the Board of Education's actions in a quasi-judicial capacity, books or other items catalogued in District libraries, copyrighted material (unless copyrighted by a government entity), or computer programs or software. In addition, GRAMA does not apply to District documents and information relating to security plans (including plans to prepare for or mitigate terrorist activity or for emergency and disaster response and recovery); security codes, combinations, and passwords; passes and keys; security procedures; results of or data collected from a risk assessment or security audit; and building and public works designs to the extent that those relate to ongoing security measures.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-103\(25\)\(b\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-204\(1\) \(2023\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-201\(3\) \(2023\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-106 \(2022\)](#)

F. Availability of Public Records

1. Public records shall be open for public inspection during regular office hours, subject to compliance with the procedures set forth in this policy. A “public record” generally means any record that is not private, controlled, or protected. However, a “public record” does not include a record to which access is restricted pursuant to a court rule, a federal regulation, another statute, or records to which access is restricted or governed as a condition of participation in a state or federal program or for receiving state or federal funds.

G. Private Documents

1. Private documents shall include all documents identified in [Utah Code § 63G-2-302\(1\)\(a\) through \(c\), \(g\) through \(i\), \(n\), \(w\) and 302\(2\)](#), personnel files including but not limited to applications, nominations, recommendations, any formal employee evaluation signed by the employee, proposals for advancement or appointment, all documents related to eligibility for unemployment benefits, social services, welfare benefits, personal finances, individual medical conditions and military status. Any record the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exceptions include information provided to the Board for the purpose of complying with a financial assurance requirement, or records that must be disclosed pursuant to another statute and those portions of personnel records identified as public above.

H. Student Records

1. All student records are designated as "education records" and the disclosure of such education records is not governed under GRAMA but under [20 USC § 1232g](#) and [34 CFR § 99 et seq.](#) and [34 CFR § 300 et seq.](#) The District may not release information related to educational records without parental consent, except as provided in the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). (See [Policy 5100 Student Records](#))

I. Availability of Private Records

1. Private records shall be open only to the subject of the record, or the parent of an un-emancipated minor who is the subject of the private record or the legal guardian of a legally incapacitated individual who is the subject of the private record, or any individual who has a power of attorney from the subject of the record, or who submits a notarized release from the subject of the record, or his legal representative which is dated not more than ninety (90) days before the date the request is made, or pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction to disclose such record.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-302\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

J. Controlled Records

1. Controlled records shall include medical, psychiatric or physiological data of an individual which, if disclosed, could be detrimental to the individual's mental health or safety or releasing the information would constitute a violation of normal professional practice and medical ethics; and, the District has properly classified the record.

- a. Records showing medical or psychological tests of a student may be disclosed to persons within the school District who are members of that student's individual education program (IEP) team.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-304 \(2008\)](#)

K. Availability of Controlled Records

1. Upon proper request, the District shall disclose a controlled record to, a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, psychologist, certified social worker, insurance provider or producer, or a government public health agency upon submission of a release from the subject of the record that is dated no more than 90 days prior to the date the request is made; and a signed acknowledgment of the terms of disclosure of controlled information or any person to whom the record must be disclosed pursuant to a court order or legislative subpoena.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-202\(2\)\(a\) \(2024\)](#)

L. Protected Records

1. Protected records include all records identified in [Utah Code § 63G-2-305](#) information that, if disclosed, would jeopardize the life or safety of an individual or security of District property or program. Protected records also may include information such as a trade secret as defined in [Utah Code § 13-24-2](#), or commercial information or non-individual financial information from a person if disclosure of that information could reasonably be expected to result in unfair competitive injury to the person submitting the information or would impair the ability of the District to obtain necessary information in the future; or the person submitting the information has a greater interest in prohibiting access than the public in obtaining access if the person submitting that information to the District has provided the District with the information specified in [Utah Code § 63G-2-309](#);
 - a. Documents that, if disclosed, would place the District at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, property transactions, or bargaining positions or could enable circumvention of an audit; records related to potential litigation or personnel or hearing; records of investigations of loss occurrences and analyses of loss occurrences that may be covered by the Risk Management Fund, the Employer's Reinsurance Fund, the Uninsured Employers' Fund, or similar divisions in other governmental entities; records generated in meetings which are closed in accordance with the [Utah Open Public Meetings Law](#); and test questions.

- b. Records, other than personnel evaluations, that contain a personal recommendation concerning an individual if disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, or disclosure is not in the public interest;
- c. Materials to which access must be limited for purposes of securing or maintaining the District's proprietary protection of intellectual property rights including patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets;
- d. A statement that a District employee provides to the District in the course of a District personnel or administrative investigation into potential misconduct involving the employee when the District
 - 1) Requires the statement to be given under threat of employment disciplinary action and
 - 2) Gives the employee assurance that the statement cannot be used against the employee in any criminal proceeding.
- e. Records showing medical or psychological tests of a student may be disclosed to persons within the school District who are members of that student's individual education program (IEP) team.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-305 \(2024\)](#)

M. Availability of Protected Records

- 1. Protected records shall only be open to authorized individuals and agencies or in response to court order.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-202\(4\) \(2024\)](#)

N. Exempt records include student records which are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

O. Copyrighted or Patented Materials

- 1. Any document which is copyrighted, either by formal filing under federal copyright laws or by informal claim of copyright, or which is covered by a patent, trademark or other protected designation, shall not be copied or provided to any person without an order of a court of competent jurisdiction ordering such disclosure or written permission from the author of the record.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-103\(25\)\(b\)\(iv\) \(2024\)](#)
[Utah Code § 63G-2-305\(36\) \(2024\)](#)

P. Sharing Records

1. Access to District records may be obtained under the following procedures:
 - a. The District shall provide a private, controlled, or protected record to another governmental entity if it is entitled by law to inspect the record; or is required to inspect the record as a condition of participating in a state or federal program or for receiving state or federal funds.
 - b. The District may provide a record that is private, controlled, or protected to another governmental entity, that serves as a repository, enforce or litigates law, authorized to audit, or directed by the legislature. The agency must provide written assurances that meet the above policy and state law with regard to records management.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-206 \(2019\)](#)

- c. The request to view District records should be addressed to the appropriate records officer during the regular business hours. The requester must submit a written request containing the requester's name, mailing address, daytime telephone number, a specific description of the records requested. The request shall specifically state whether:
 - 1) the requester seeks only to inspect the records;
 - 2) the requester seeks to inspect and obtain copies of records; or
 - 3) the requester seeks to have the District identify and provide copies of the requested records, without prior inspection by the requester.
 - 4) In submitting the records request, the requester shall also state if the requester desires copies of the records in electronic format.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-201\(13\) \(2023\)](#)

Q. Access to District Records

1. Individuals requesting to view records classified as "Private, Controlled and Protected" must prove their right to access to the records through personal identification, written release from the subject of the record, power of attorney, court order or other appropriate means.
2. The records officer shall determine whether access to the requested records is to be granted or denied.
 - a. If the request is approved, the record shall be provided as soon as possible and not more than ten (10) working days from the date the request is received. If the requester seeks an expedited response, the time for response to the request shall be five (5) business days if the requester demonstrates that the request benefits the public rather than the requester. This public benefit is presumed if the request is made to obtain information for a story or report for publication or broadcast to the general public. The District shall promptly evaluate all requests for expedited responses and if the District determines that the requester has not demonstrated that the request is for public benefit and that the response to the request will therefore not be expedited, the District shall so inform the requester within five (5) business days of the request.
 - b. If the request is denied, the records officer must specify the reason in writing and specify the record denied and the regulation, exempting the record. The requestor shall be informed of the right to appeal which must be made within 30 days after the denial is sent. The name and address of the Superintendent where the appeal must be sent. If the records are not maintained by the District, the requester should be informed that the records cannot be provided for that reason.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-205 \(2008\)](#)

- c. If the District determines that extraordinary circumstances as identified in [Utah Code § 63G-2-204\(6\)](#) require a longer time for response, the District shall notify the requester of that determination within ten business days (five for public benefit requests) and shall describe in the notice the circumstances which constitute the extraordinary circumstances and shall inform the requester when the records or shall be available or response shall be made consistent with [Utah Code § 63G-2-204\(7\)](#).

[Utah Code § 63G-2-204 \(2023\)](#)

R. Fees for Search and/or Duplication of Records

1. A fee shall be charged for the District's actual cost of duplicating a requested record and also for the personnel time in compiling and obtaining the record. The fee schedule for this service shall be the same as currently charged to employees for personal copies and the hourly rate of lane 1 step 1 of the secretary salary schedule to the closest dollar. Rates for other manipulation or research of data will be determined by the salary of the person who must do the work. No fee may be charged for the time and work required to determine whether the record is subject to disclosure or the requester's inspection of the record. An additional charge of \$1 shall be charged per each page of a document which has been requested to be certified.
 - a. The District shall require all fees of the requestor to be paid before copying if fees are expected to exceed \$50.00, or if the requestor has not paid fees from a previous request.
 - b. The District shall charge for the first quarter hour of staff time spent in responding to a records request if the requester is not a Utah media representative and has previously submitted a separate request within the 10-day period immediately before the date of the request the District is responding to. (A "media representative" is a person who requests a record to obtain information for a story or report for publication or broadcast to the general public. "Media representative" does not include a person who requests a record to obtain information for a blog, podcast, social media account, or other means of mass communication generally available to a member of the public.)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-203 \(2022\)](#)

S. Appeals Process

1. An appeal of an access denial may be made by the requester or by any interested party. (An "interested party" is a person other than the requester who is aggrieved by an access denial. An "access denial" is the complete or partial refusal to disclose a record or the failure to respond or to timely respond to a records request.) The requester may also appeal a denial of a request to waive fees or the records officer's determination that extraordinary circumstances exist justifying additional time for responding and the date determined for response.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-203\(6\) \(2022\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-400.5 \(2019\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401 \(2024\)](#)

- a. An appeal of an access denial is made by filing a notice of appeal with the Superintendent within 30 days after (1) the District sends or delivers the notice of denial ~~or denies a request to waive fees~~, (2) the records request is considered denied because the District has not timely responded to the request, or (3) the District gives notice of the claim of extraordinary circumstances justifying a longer time for responding. An appeal of denial of a fee waiver request is made by filing a notice of appeal with the Superintendent within 30 days after the requester is notified of the denial.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

- b. The notice of appeal must include
- 1) the name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number of the requester or interested party and
 - 2) the relief sought.
 - 3) The appealing party may also file a short statement of facts, reasons, and legal authority in support of the appeal.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(2\), \(3\) \(2024\)](#)

- c. If the appeal involves a record which is subject to a claim of business confidentiality, then the Superintendent shall send notice of the appeal to the person claiming business confidentiality within three business days after receiving the notice of appeal (or, if the notice has to be given to more than 35 persons, as soon as reasonably possible). The Superintendent shall also send notice to the appealing party of the business confidentiality claim and the schedule for deciding the appeal within three business days after receiving the notice of appeal. The business confidentiality claimant has seven business days after the Superintendent sends notice to the claimant in which to submit further support of the claim of confidentiality.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(4\) \(2024\)](#)

- d. The Superintendent shall rule on the appeal within five business days of receiving the notice of appeal unless the record is subject to a claim of business confidentiality. In that case, the Superintendent shall rule on the appeal within twelve business days after the Superintendent sends the notice of appeal to any individual asserting a claim of business confidentiality. If the Superintendent does not rule on the appeal within these time periods, then the Superintendent is

deemed to have affirmed the access denial or the claim of extraordinary circumstances requiring additional time to respond or the extended date to respond.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(5\) \(2024\)](#)

- e. The District shall send written notice of the Superintendent's decision to all participants. If the Superintendent in whole or in part affirms the access denial **or affirms the fee waiver denial**, this notice shall state
- 1) **that the requester has the right under [Utah Code § 63A-12-111](#) to request the government records ombudsman to mediate the dispute between the requester and the District concerning the access denial or fee waiver denial,**
 - 2) that the appealing party has the right to appeal the decision to the State Records Committee or to a state District court,
 - 3) **the time limits for filing an appeal, including an explanation of the suspension of the time limits to appeal to the State Records Committee or to petition for judicial review that apply if the requester seeks mediation under [Utah Code § 63A-12-111](#), and**
 - 4) the name and business address of the executive secretary of the State Records Committee **and of the government records ombudsman.**
- f. The time for filing an appeal to the State Records Committee is thirty days after the Superintendent's decision is issued. However, if the issue was a claim of extraordinary circumstances or an extended response date based on extraordinary circumstances and if the Superintendent does not make a decision, then the appeal to the State Records Committee may be filed within forty-five days of the original records request. If the appeal is by filing a petition for judicial review in District court, the petition must be filed within thirty days of the Superintendent's decision. **If the requester submits a request for the government records ombudsman to mediate the dispute, then the time for filing a notice of appeal with the State Records Committee or filing a petition for judicial review is suspended for the period that begins with the date of the mediation request and runs until the earlier of the date that the ombudsman certifies in writing that the mediation is concluded or certifies that the mediation did not occur or was not concluded because of lack of required consent.**

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(7\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-403\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

[Utah Code § 63G-2-404\(1\) \(2024\)](#)

- g. An individual who is aggrieved by the District's classification or designation of records for GRAMA purposes (but who is not requesting access to the records) may appeal the District's action to the Superintendent following these procedures. However, if the non-requesting party is the only party appealing, the decision on the appeal is to be made within thirty days of the notice of appeal.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-401\(8\) \(2024\)](#)

T. Retention of District Records

1. The District shall adhere to the general schedule for records retention approved by the State Records Committee. Records which are not covered by the general schedule shall be submitted to the State Records Committee for scheduling.
2. If an appropriate requestor requests to have copies of more than fifty (50) pages of records, the District may in its sole discretion provide the requestor with facilities to make copies and require the requestor to make copies him or herself at his or her own expense.

U. Amendment of Records

1. An individual may contest the accuracy or completeness of any public, or private, or protected record concerning him/her by requesting the school District to amend the record. However, this provision does not affect the right of access to private or protected records. This provision does not apply to records relating to title of real property, medical records, judicial case files, or any other records that the school District determines must be maintained in their original form to protect the public interest or preserve the integrity of the record keeping system.

V. Request to Amend

1. The request to amend shall contain the requester's name, mailing address, day time telephone number and a brief description explaining why the specific record should be amended.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-603\(2\)\(b\) \(2008\)](#)

W. Response

1. The school District shall issue an order either approving or disapproving the request to amend no later than thirty (30) days after the request is made. The order shall state reasons for the decision. If the request is denied, the requester may submit a written statement contesting the information in the record. The school District shall place the statement with the record, if possible, and disclose the statement whenever the contested record is disclosed.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-603\(5\), \(6\) \(2008\)](#)

X. Notice to Provider of Information

1. The District shall provide notice of the following and explain upon request to a person who is asked to furnish information that could be classified as a private or controlled record:
 - a. The record series that includes the information;
 - b. The reasons the person is asked to furnish information that could be classified as a private or controlled record;
 - c. The intended uses of the information;
 - d. The consequences for refusing to provide the information;
 - e. The classes of the persons and the governmental entities that currently share the information with the District or receive the information from the District on a regular or contractual basis; and
 - f. The reasons and circumstances under which the information may be shared with or provided to other persons or governmental agencies.
 - g. The notice shall be included as part of the documents or forms that the District uses to collect the information.

[Utah Code § 63G-2-601\(2\), \(3\) \(2023\)](#)