

Public Records Request**

A request to inspect or receive a copy of a public record shall be in writing and will be presented to the district office superintendent or designee.

Every person has a right to inspect any public record of the school district, except as expressly provided by law including Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.410-192.505.

"Public record" means any information that:

- 1. Is prepared, owned, used or retained by the district;
- 2. Is related to an activity, transaction or function of the district; and
- 3. Is necessary to satisfy the fiscal, legal, administrative or historical policies, requirements or needs of the district.

A public record includes any writing that contains information relating to the conduct of public's business, prepared, owned, used or retained by the district regardless of physical form or characteristics, unless otherwise exempted by law.¹ "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photographing and every means of recording, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, or symbols or combination thereof and all papers, maps, files, facsimiles or electronic recordings. Public record does not include any writing that does not relate to the conduct of the public's business and that is contained in a privately owned computer.²

Public record does not include messages on voice mail or on other telephone message storage and retrieval systems or spoken communication that is not recorded.

Board meetings and records will be matters of public information subject to such restrictions as are set by federal law or regulation, by state statute or by pertinent court rulings.

The Board's official minutes, its written policies and its financial records will be available at the superintendent's office for inspection by any member of the public desiring to examine them during hours when the superintendent's office is open.

All such information will be made available to individuals with disabilities in any appropriate an accessible format upon request and with appropriate advanced notice. Auxiliary aids and services available to ensure equally effective communications to qualified persons with disabilities may include large print, Braille, audio recordings, readers, assistance in locating materials or other equally effective accommodations.

No records will be released for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons — either by the superintendent or any other person designated as custodian for district records — if such disclosure would be contrary to the public interest, as described in state law.

¹ There are multiple definitions for "public record" in ORS 192. This definition comes from ORS 192.311 and applies to the inspection of records.

²<u>In accordance with Bialostosky v. Cummings, 319 Or. App. 352 (2022), an individual board member may be considered a public body for public record purposes. Consequently, records created and retained solely by individual board members may be considered public records.</u>

The Board reserves the right to <u>district will</u> establish a fee schedule which will reasonably reimburse the district for the actual cost of making public records available pursuant to law. The district will not be obligated to complete a request for which the requester has not paid the fee as permitted by state law. There will be no additional charge for auxiliary aids and services provided for qualified persons with disabilities.

Employee and volunteer <u>personal residential</u> addresses, <u>personal electronic</u> mail addresses (other than district electronic mail addresses assigned by the district to district employees), social security numbers, dates of birth and <u>personal</u> telephone <u>or cellular numbers</u>, and other information listed in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 192.355 as exempt, contained in personnel records maintained by the district are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to ORS 192.445 <u>363–368</u> and ORS 192.502(3) <u>355(3)</u>. Such information may be released only upon the written request of the employee or volunteer or as otherwise provided by law</u>. This exemption does not apply to a substitute teacher, as defined in ORS 342.815, when requested by a professional education association of which the substitute teacher may be a member. District electronic mail addresses assigned by the district to district employees are not exempt.

The district will not disclose the identification badge or card of an employee without the employee's written consent if the badge or card contains the employee's photograph and the badge or card was prepared solely for internal use by the district to identify district employees. A duplicate of the photograph used on the badge or card shall not be disclosed.

The district shall not, in accordance with state law, disclose personal information for the purpose of enforcement of federal immigration laws.

Petition to appeal the denial of the right to inspect any public record held by the district may be made pursuant to ORS 192.540.

The district shall retain and maintain its public records in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) <u>166-005-0010 and Chapter</u> 166, Division 400 <u>and ORS Chapter 192</u>.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s): ORS 180.805 ORS Chapter 192

OAR 137-004-0800(1) OAR 166-005-0010 OAR 166-400

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2012 2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017 2021); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017 2021).

Oregon Dep't of Justice, Oregon Attorney General, *Public Records and Meetings Manual* (2014). Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, <u>42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133(2018)</u> <u>Bialostsky v. Cummings, 319 Or. App. 352 (2022).</u>