

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Public Access to District Records

The following procedures shall be used to carry out the district's policy regarding public access to district records:

#### Public Records Custodian

At each facility where district records are kept, the superintendent's designee shall serve as public records custodian who shall be responsible for the maintenance of district records in accordance with district policy. The custodian shall permit access to, and copying of, district records by the public with authorization from the superintendent, who is the public records coordinator.

#### Display of Descriptions, Policies and Procedures

The public records coordinator shall compile, prominently display and make available the following for inspection and copying by the public at the district's central office:

- A. Descriptions of the district's organizational structure;
- B. Descriptions or statements of the general course and method by which the district operates;
- C. Descriptions of how, where and from which employees and the public can obtain information and copies of public records (this policy and procedure);
- D. Descriptions or statements of all formal and informal district procedures;
- E. All district rules of procedure;
- F. All substantive rules of general applicability;
- G. All statements of general policy; and
- H. All interpretations of general applicability developed or utilized by the district.

The public records coordinator shall update the displayed materials identified above whenever an item is amended, revised or repealed.

#### Index of Certain Records

The coordinator shall be responsible for the preparation and maintenance and availability for inspection and copying by the public of current indexes of the following records:

- A. Statements and interpretations of district policies; and
- B. Administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that may affect a member of the public;
- C. Planning policies and goals and interim and final planning decisions;
- D. Factual staff reports, factual consultant's reports and studies, scientific reports and studies, and any other factual information derived from tests, studies, reports or surveys, whether conducted by district staff or others.

The indexes described above shall be kept at the district's central office.

If the coordinator determines that the indexing of one or more of the categories of records described above or one or more of the subcategories within such categories would be unduly burdensome or interfere with district operations, he/she shall request that the board adopt a formal resolution exempting such categories or subcategories from the indexing required by this section. The resolution shall specify the reasons and the extent to which indexing would unduly burden or interfere with district operations.

#### Requests for Inspection and Copying

Upon written request, the district shall make available to any person for inspection and copying any record or records not exempted by district policy.

A written request for inspection and/or copying of records may include:

- A. Name, address, and signature of the party requesting disclosure and the date of request;
- B. Specification of the records or types of records requested; and
- C. A statement of the intended use of requested documents if lists of individuals are included. The district shall not deny a request solely due to refusal to furnish a reason for the request.

Written requests for inspection and/or copying of records shall be made to the coordinator at the district's central office or to the student record's custodian at the place where the requested records are kept.

Written requests shall be made and records shall be available for inspection and copying during the customary business hours of the district's central office and/or the facility where the requested records are kept.

With respect to those records that the coordinator has designated in writing as "open to inspection," the student records' custodian at the facility where the record is kept shall have authority to grant a request for inspection and copying. With respect to all other records, a request for inspection and copying shall be granted only after review and approval of the request by the coordinator.

A response to each written request for inspection and copying of district records shall be provided within five business days. The district may respond by providing the requested record, denying the request, or acknowledging receipt of the request and providing a reasonable estimate of the time the district will require to respond. Any denial of a request shall contain an explanation of the statutory basis of the denial. If a record contains disclosable information, the district shall disclose the record with the non-disclosable portion deleted and provide a written explanation of the statutory basis for the deletion.

If a requested record contains personally identifiable information about a person, prior to release the person and appropriate bargaining unit, if any, shall be notified of the request and the district's intended response.

If the public records' coordinator concludes that disclosure of a requested record that is not exempt from disclosure is not in the public interest and would substantially and irreparably damage any person or vital governmental function, the coordinator shall seek a court injunction to prevent disclosure.

Staff shall provide full assistance to members of the public making inquiries or requests related to district records. Staff shall locate and produce for inspection requested records which are not exempt from disclosure and which have been sufficiently identified in a request for inspection. Staff may request a clarification of any request that is unclear and need not respond if the request is not clarified. On request, the district shall make copies of public records for a per-page fee of fifteen cents and the actual cost of postage and an envelope, if any. Determining the actual cost of copying is excessively burdensome therefore the district is using the statutory fifteen cents per page charge.

A staff member may condition access to a public record containing a list of individuals on the requester's promise that the record will not be used for a commercial purpose, but may not require the requester to enter into a hold harmless agreement to that effect.

The coordinator and student records' custodian shall have authority to impose reasonable conditions on the manner of inspection of records so as to minimize the risks of damage or disorganization of the records and to prevent excessive interference with other essential operations of the district.

**Date: 1/25/82; 12/20/99; 1/13/03; 1/23/06; 10/23/06.**