

PUBLIC RECORDS

The Metropolitan School District of Washington Township ("District") School Board recognizes its responsibility to maintain and protect the public records of the Board and to make these records available for inspection and the purchase of copies in compliance with the Indiana Access to Public Records Act ("APRA").

The Board directs the Superintendent to assert any exemption required to protect information that must be kept confidential pursuant to I.C. 5-14-3-4(a); and the Board authorizes the Superintendent to assert any discretionary exemption to the APRA found in I.C. 5-14-3-4(b). As such, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the District shall not disclose records which contain a student's personally identifiable information without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student. In accordance with FERPA and Indiana Public Access Counselor Opinion, the District shall not disclose information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.

Procedures for Request for Public Records

A request to inspect and/or purchase copies of a public record in the custody of the Board must be made in writing and submitted in person, by e-mail, facsimile, or USPS mail to Superintendent and/or designee. Such a request submitted outside of the regular business hours, shall be received at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work day.

A requesting party shall be required to describe the records sought with reasonable particularity. The District may request clarification if the request does not provide information which enables it to search for, locate, and retrieve the records. The District shall acknowledge the request within seven (7) business days of receipt.

After the District has reviewed the request, the District will inform the requester in writing if the request is denied or granted. If the request is denied, the District will provide the statutory citation and authority for not disclosing the record, as well as the name and title of the person responsible for the denial. If the request is granted, the District will inform the Requester of the estimated fees to be paid.

Whether or not the Requestor seeks copies of the requested records, the District may charge a search fee for any time spent searching for records that are in an electronic format that exceeds five (5) hours. This search fee shall not exceed the lesser of:

1. the hourly rate of the person making the search; or
2. twenty dollars (\$20) per hour.

Search and/or copying fees shall be paid to the District before any record is copied, disclosed, or made available for inspection. Fees may be paid by cash or money order payable to the District. After receiving the fee, the District shall make the requested records available within a reasonable amount of time, depending on the complexity and size of the request.

If a requester elects to review and inspect the record(s) in person, they will work with the District in good faith to schedule a time for inspection. Records may be inspected only at the office or location where they are regularly maintained, during regular business hours, in the presence of a District staff member.

The District shall comply with I.C. 5-14-3-7 and shall consider other duties to be performed by Board employees with custody of the requested record(s) and shall not cause or permit a material interference with the regular discharge of other functions or duties of the District or its employees.

Limited Access to Requests for Lists of Persons

The Board will not create or provide copies of lists of names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) unless the Board is required by law to publish and disseminate the list to the public. However, if the Board has created a list of names and addresses of persons (excluding e-mail addresses), it will permit a person to inspect and make memoranda abstracts from the list unless access to the list is prohibited by law. The Board prohibits disclosures of any records to any commercial entity for commercial purposes or to any individual or entity for political purposes. In addition, records may not be used by individuals or entities for commercial purposes or political purposes.

Fees for Purchasing Copies of Public Records

The Board establishes the following fee schedule for purchase of a copy of public records. These fees will be uniform to all purchasers.

Copies shall be prepared by a District employee and provided to a requesting party upon payment of a fee which is the greater of:

- A. Ten cents (\$0.10) per page for copies that are not color copies or twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page for color copies; or
- B. The actual cost of copying the document. "Actual cost" means the cost of paper and the per-page cost for use of copying or facsimile equipment and does not include labor costs or overhead costs.
- C. Certification of document five dollars (\$5.00).
- D. The Board will charge a fee for providing a duplicate of a computer tape, computer disc, microfilm, or similar or analogous record system containing a public record in the custody of the District. The fee shall not exceed the sum of:
 - i. The District's direct cost of supplying the information in that form; and
 - ii. The standard cost of selling the same information to the public in the form of a publication if the District has published the information and made the publication available for sale.

I.C. 5-14-3(a)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

I.C. 5-14-3-7

I.C. 5-14-3-8

I.C. 5-14-3

I.C. 5-15-6

Indiana Public Access Counselor Opinion, March 17, 2014

Metropolitan School District of Washington Township

Adopted 02/26/25

Revised [date]