

## SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

It is the policy of the Board of Education to inform members of the public about the administration and operation of the public schools in accordance with the Freedom of Information Law of the State of New York.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Law and setting forth the procedures to be followed to obtain access to district records, and submit such regulations to the Board for approval. The Superintendent shall designate, with Board approval, a Records Access and Records Management Officer, pursuant to law.

### Retention and Destruction of Records

The Board hereby adopts the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1 issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, which contains the legal minimum retention periods for district records. In accordance with Article 57-A, the district will dispose of only those records described in the schedule after they have met the minimum retention periods set forth in the schedule. The district will dispose of only those records that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal or historical value to merit retention beyond the established legal minimum periods.

The manner of destruction will be determined by the format of the record (i.e., paper, digital, etc.). In addition, destruction will be appropriately documented.

### Litigation-Hold

The Superintendent will establish procedures in the event that the school district is served with legal papers. The Superintendent will communicate with applicable parties, including the school attorney and the records management official, to ensure that, when appropriate, a litigation-hold is properly implemented. The litigation-hold is intended to prevent the destruction or disposal of records that may need to be produced as part of discovery. It is the intention of the Board of Education to comply with applicable rules and regulations regarding the production of necessary documents, data, files, etc. The Board directs the Superintendent to institute such procedures to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or his/her designee, with assistance from the Records Management Officer, shall be responsible for developing and disseminating department-specific retention schedules and guidance to staff, as necessary, to ensure adherence to this policy.

**Policy 1120**

Cross-ref: 8630, Computer Resources and Data Management

Ref: Public Officers Law §84 *et seq.* (Freedom of Information Law)

Education Law §2116

Arts and Cultural Affairs Law §57.11

Local Government Records Law, Article 57-A

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, 16, 26

8 NYCRR Part 185 (Appendix I) – Records Retention and Disposition

Schedule ED-1

Adoption date: 12/17/13

**SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS REGULATION**

The following comprises the rules and regulations relating to the inspection and production of school district records:

I. Designation of Officers

1. The Records Access Officer shall be the District Clerk. He/She shall:
  - Receive requests for records of the Board of Education and make such records available for inspection or copying when such requests are granted; and
  - Compile and maintain a detailed current list by subject matter, of all records in the possession of the Board, whether or not available to the public.
2. The Superintendent of Schools, with the Board's approval, shall designate a Records Management Officer for the district. The Records Management Officer will develop and oversee a program for the orderly and efficient management of district records. The Records Management Officer shall ensure proper documentation of the destruction of records, in accordance with the schedule.

II. Definition of Records

1. A record is defined as any information kept, held, filed, produced or reproduced by, with or for the district in any physical form whatsoever, including but not limited to reports, statements, examinations, memoranda, opinions, folders, files, books, manuals, pamphlets, forms, papers, designs, drawings, maps, photos, letters, microfilms, computer tapes or disks, rules, regulations or codes.
2. The Records Access Officer will have the responsibility for compiling and maintaining the following records:
  - a. a record of the final vote of each member of the Board on any proceeding or matter on which the member votes;
  - b. a record setting forth the name, school or office address, title and salary of every officer or employee of the district; and
  - c. a reasonably detailed current list by subject matter of all records in possession of the district, whether or not available for public inspection and copying.

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3. No record for which there is a pending request for access may be destroyed. However, nothing in these regulations shall require the district to prepare any record not possessed or maintained by it except the records specified in II(2), above.

### III. Access to Records

1. Time and place records may be inspected: Records may be requested from, and inspected or copied at, the Office of the Records Access Officer, at Moriah Central School during the hours of 8:00am to 3:00pm on any business day on which the district offices are open.
2. Fees: The fee for documents up to 9 x 14 inches is 25 cents per page. For documents larger than 9 x 14 inches, tape or cassette records, or computer printouts, the cost will be based on the cost of reproduction or program utilized. Fees are subject to periodic review and change. However, no fee shall be charged for records sent via e-mail, the search for or inspection of records, certification of documents, or copies of documents which have been printed or reproduced for distribution to the public. The number of such copies given to any one organization or individual may be limited, in the discretion of the Records Access Officer.
3. Procedures: Requests to inspect or secure copies of records shall be submitted in writing, either in person, by mail or via e-mail, to the Records Access Officer. [Forms are provided (1120-E.1-2) for written and e-mail requests, but are not required.]
4. All requests for information shall be responded to within five business days of receipt of the request. If the request cannot be fulfilled within five business days, the Records Access Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the request and provide the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied.
5. If a request cannot be granted within 20 business days from the date of acknowledgement of the request, the district must state in writing both the reason the request cannot be granted within 20 business days, and a date certain within a reasonable period when it will be granted depending on the circumstances of the request.
6. Denial of Access: When a request for access to a public record is denied, the Records Access Officer shall indicate in writing the reasons for such denial, and the right to appeal.

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7. Appeal: An applicant denied access to a public record may file an appeal by delivering a copy of the request and a copy of the denial to the Superintendent within 30 days after the denial from which such appeal is taken.
8. The applicant and the New York State Committee on Open Government will be informed of the Superintendent's determination in writing within 10 business days of receipt of an appeal. The Superintendent shall transmit to the Committee on Open Government photocopies of all appeals and determinations.

### IV. Records Exempted from Public Access

The provisions of this regulation relating to information available for public inspection and copying shall not apply to records that:

1. are specifically exempted from disclosure by state and/or federal statute;
2. if disclosed would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
3. if disclosed would impair present or imminent contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations;
4. are confidentially disclosed to the Board and compiled and maintained for the regulation of commercial enterprise, including trade secrets, or for the grant or review of a license;
5. are compiled for law enforcement purposes and which, if disclosed, would:
  - a. interfere with law enforcement investigations or judicial proceedings;
  - b. deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication;
  - c. identify a confidential source or disclose confidential techniques or procedures, except routine techniques or procedures; or
  - d. reveal criminal investigative techniques or procedures, except routine techniques and procedures;
6. records which if disclosed would endanger the life or safety of any person;
7. records which are interagency or intra-agency communications, except to the extent that such materials consist of:
  - a. statistical or factual tabulations or data;
  - b. instructions to staff which affect the public;

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- c. final Board policy determinations; or
  - d. external audits, including but not limited to audits performed by the comptroller and the federal government;
8. records which are examination questions or answers that are requested prior to the final administration of such questions;
  9. records which if disclosed would jeopardize the district's capacity to guarantee the security of its information technology assets (which encompasses both the system and the infrastructure).

### V. Prevention of Unwarranted Invasion of Privacy

To prevent an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the Records Access Officer may delete identifying details when records are made available. An unwarranted invasion of personal privacy includes but shall not be limited to:

1. disclosure of confidential personal matters reported to the Board which are not relevant or essential to the ordinary work of the Board;
2. disclosure of employment, medical or credit histories or personal references of applicants for employment, unless the applicant has provided a written release permitting such disclosures;
3. sale or release of lists of names and addresses in the possession of the Board if such lists would be used for private, commercial or fund-raising purposes;
4. disclosure of information of a personal nature when disclosure would result in economic or personal hardship to the subject party and such records are not relevant or essential to the ordinary work of the Board; or
5. disclosure of items involving the medical or personal records of a client or patient in a hospital or medical facility.

Unless otherwise deniable, disclosure shall not be construed to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy when identifying details are deleted, when the person to whom records pertain consents in writing to disclosure, or when upon representing reasonable proof of identity, a person seeks access to records pertaining to him or her.

### VI. Listing of Records

Pursuant to Section 87(3)(c) of the Public Officers Law, the current records retention schedule for school districts, published by the Commissioner of Education, shall serve as the list by subject matter of all records in the possession

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of the school district, whether or not available under the law. The Superintendent or his/her designee, in consultation with the Records Management Officer, shall develop and disseminate department-specific guidance so that staff can implement this policy and regulation.

### **VII. Litigation-Hold**

The Superintendent will designate a “discovery” team, comprised of the school attorney, the Records Access and Records Management Officer and other personnel as needed. The discovery team will convene in the event that litigation is commenced to plan to respond to the request for records. The Superintendent, with assistance from the will ensure that measures are put in place to preserve applicable records.

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**APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS**  
*(Via Mail or E-Mail)*

[Note to the public: This form's language is optional but may enhance your use of the Freedom of Information Law. You may choose to utilize certain portions that are most applicable to your request. You may cut and paste the entire form into a new e-mail, read all provisions, and delete and/or modify those that do not apply. The subject line of your request should be "FOIL Request".]

Moriah Central School  
39 Viking Lane  
Port Henry, NY 12974

Dear Records Access Officer:

1. Please e-mail/mail the following records if possible [include as much detail about the record as possible, such as relevant dates, names, descriptions, etc.]:
2. Please inform me of the appropriate time during normal business hours for inspecting the following records prior to obtaining copies [include as much detail about the records as possible, including relevant dates, names, descriptions, etc.]:
3. Please inform me of the cost of providing paper copies of the following records [include as much detail about the records as possible, including relevant dates, names, descriptions, etc.].
4. If all the requested records cannot be e-mailed/mailed to me, please inform me by e-mail/mail of the portions that can be e-mailed/mailed and advise me of the cost for reproducing the remainder of the records requested (\$0.25 per page or actual cost of reproduction).
5. If the requested records cannot be e-mailed/mailed to me due to the volume of records identified in response to my request, please advise me of the actual cost of copying all records onto a CD or floppy disk.



6. If my request is too broad or does not reasonably describe the records, please contact me via e-mail/mail so that I may clarify my request, and when appropriate inform me of the manner in which records are filed, retrieved or generated. If it is necessary to modify my request, and an e-mail/mail response is not preferred, please contact me at the following telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_.

If for any reason any portion of my request is denied, please inform me of the reasons for the denial in writing and provide the name, address and e-mail address of the person or body to whom an appeal should be directed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address [if records are to be mailed]: \_\_\_\_\_

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