

BEDG-R – ACCESS TO MINUTES AND PUBLIC RECORDS

1. These procedures will apply to all requests for access to public records and minutes received by the administrative offices of the School District.
2. The Board encourages members of the public to make their requests for access to public records in writing and to include a specific description of the desired documents. No request will be denied if it is not in writing. All steps taken to comply with such requests will be documented in writing and will include a specific description of all documents that were made available.
3. Public documents requested under the Right-to-Know Law must be made available within five (5) business days. In the event a reply will take longer than five (5) days, a letter will be sent to the individual requesting the documents acknowledging receipt of the request and either estimating when a substantive reply will be available or explaining why such documents are unavailable.
4. Access to public records will ordinarily be afforded by providing photocopies of the requested materials. In some instances alternate methods -- such as allowing personal review of a particularly voluminous file -- may be more appropriate.
5. The School District will charge a basic fee of \$0.25 per page for producing photocopies of records.
6. Records must be reviewed in their entirety by either the Superintendent, his/her designee, or School Principal before they are released, in order to ensure that no confidential or exempted information is disclosed.
7. Records exempted from disclosure requirements include: personnel records; student records; privileged documents (e.g. lawyer-client communication); records pertaining to litigation; collective bargaining; real estate negotiations; records containing certain types of confidential commercial or financial information; and other such documents as defined in RSA 91-A:5.
8. It is possible that only a portion of the information contained in a district record will be subject to public access under the Right-to-Know Law. In such cases the district will make a reasonable effort to provide access to the public portions of the record. For instance, a redacted photocopy of the document may be provided.
9. This procedure shall be effective immediately and shall continue in force until otherwise amended or repealed.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

ESB Policy BEDG (Minutes)

RSA 91-A:4 (Public Records and Meetings: Minutes and Records Available for Public Inspection)

RSA 91-A:5 (Public Records and Meetings: Exemptions)

Handbook (None)

APPROVED: July 17, 2008

PREVIOUS POLICY: None