

PA STATE AGENCIES

ONLINE SERVICES

--search PA--

Open Records

[Open Records](#) > Contact Us

Contact Us

Right-To-Know Law

Citizens' Guide

Forms

Appeals Process - How to File an Appeal

Right-to-Know Law FAQs

Sunshine Act FAQs

Fees

Final Determinations Judicial Decisions

Petitions for Reconsideration

Enforce a Final Determination

Proposed Amendments to RTKL and Sunshine Act

Advisory Opinions

Appeals Process - Procedural Guidelines

Hearings and Mediation

Agency Guides & Advisories

Media Inquiries

Tips from the Executive Director



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Physical Address: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Plaza Level
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Mailing Address: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Phone: 717-346-9903

Fax: 717-425-5343

General Email: openrecords@pa.gov *revised July 2011 - email address updated* (for general questions and appeal submissions)

Acting Director: Nathanael Byerly

Chief Counsel: Charles Rees Brown

Attorneys: J. Chadwick Schnee, Assistant Chief Counsel
Kyle Applegate
Benjamin Lorah
Jill Wolfe
Joshua Young
Kathleen Higgins

Open Records Officer for the Office of Open Records: George Spiess RTK-OOR@pa.gov *revised July 2011 - email address updated*
(This e-mail address is for official Right-to-Know requests of OOR records only. The OOR is not a warehouse/custodian of all Commonwealth records. You must make your request directly to the agency or agencies that hold(s) the records you are seeking. See the Citizen's Guide for additional guidance).

Muncy School District
www.muncysd.org

Open Records Officer: Board Secretary
Address: Muncy School District
206 Sherman St.
Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-3125
Fax: 570-546-6676



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

STANDARD RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUEST FORM

DATE REQUESTED: _____

REQUEST SUBMITTED BY: E-MAIL U.S. MAIL FAX IN-PERSON

REQUEST SUBMITTED TO (Agency name & address): _____

NAME OF REQUESTER : _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/COUNTY/ZIP(Required): _____

TELEPHONE (Optional): _____ EMAIL (optional): _____

RECORDS REQUESTED: **Provide as much specific detail as possible so the agency can identify the information. Please use additional sheets if necessary*

DO YOU WANT COPIES? YES NO

DO YOU WANT TO INSPECT THE RECORDS? YES NO

DO YOU WANT CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS? YES NO

DO YOU WANT TO BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE IF THE COST EXCEEDS \$100? YES NO

**** PLEASE NOTE: RETAIN A COPY OF THIS REQUEST FOR YOUR FILES ****
**** IT IS A REQUIRED DOCUMENT IF YOU WOULD NEED TO FILE AN APPEAL ****

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

OPEN-RECORDS OFFICER:

I have provided notice to appropriate third parties and given them an opportunity to object to this request

DATE RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY:

AGENCY FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAY RESPONSE DUE:

***Public bodies may fill anonymous verbal or written requests. If the requestor wishes to pursue the relief and remedies provided for in this Act, the request must be in writing. (Section 702.) Written requests need not include an explanation why information is sought or the intended use of the information unless otherwise required by law. (Section 703.)*

Fee Structure

Record Type

Fee

Copies:

(A "photocopy" is either a single-sided copy or one side of a double-sided black-and-white copy of a standard 8.5" x 11" page)

.25 per page.

Certification of a Record:

\$1 per record, not per page. Please note that certification fees do not include notarization fees.

Specialized documents: For example, but not limited to, blue prints, color copies, non-standard sized documents

Actual Cost

Facsimile/Microfiche/Other Media:

Actual Cost

Redaction Fee:

No Redaction Fee May be Imposed

Conversion to Paper:

If a record is only maintained electronically or in other non-paper media, duplication fees shall be limited to the lesser of the fee for duplication on paper or the fee for duplication in the original media unless the requester specifically requests for the record to be duplicated in the more expensive medium. (Sec. 1307(e)).

Postage Fees:

Fees for Postage May Not Exceed the Actual Cost of Mailing

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Public Records
Code	801
Status	Active
Adopted	June 24, 2019

Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of public records as the record of the district's actions and the repository of information about this district. The public has the right to access and procure copies of public records, with certain exceptions, subject to law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Definitions

Financial record - any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or disbursement of funds or acquisition, use or disposal of services, supplies, materials, equipment or property; or the salary or other payments or expenses paid to an officer or employee, including the individual's name and title; and a financial audit report, excluding the audit's underlying work papers.[\[1\]](#)

Public record - a record, including a financial record, that is not protected by a defined privilege or is not exempt from being disclosed under one of the exemptions in Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law or under other federal or state law or regulation, or judicial decree or order.

Record - information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, that documents a district transaction or activity and is created, received or retained pursuant to law or in connection with a district transaction, business or activity, including: a document; paper; letter; map; book; tape; photograph; film or sound recording; information stored or maintained electronically; and a data-processed or image-processed document.

Response - the district's notice informing a requester of a granting of access to a record or the district's written notice to a requester granting, denying, or partially granting and partially denying access to a requested record.

Requester - a legal resident of the United States, or an agency, who requests access to a record.

Authority

The Board shall make the district's public records available for access and duplication to a requester, in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board shall designate an Open Records Officer, who shall be responsible to:[\[6\]](#)

1. Receive written requests for access to records submitted to the district.
2. Review and respond to written requests in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

3. Direct requests to other appropriate individuals in the district or in another agency.
4. Track the district's progress in responding to requests.
5. Issue interim and final responses to submitted requests.
6. Maintain a log of all record requests and their disposition.
7. Ensure district staff are trained to perform assigned job functions relative to requests for access to records.

Upon receiving a request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall:[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

1. Note the date of receipt on the written request.
2. Compute and note on the written request the day on which the five-day period for response will expire.
3. Maintain an electronic or paper copy of the written request, including all documents submitted with the request, until the request has been fulfilled.
4. If the written request is denied, maintain the written request for thirty (30) days or, if an appeal is filed, until a final determination is issued or the appeal is deemed denied.

Guidelines

Requesters may access and procure copies of the public records of the district during the regular business hours of the administration offices.[\[5\]](#)

A requester's right of access does not include the right to remove a record from the control or supervision of the Open Records Officer.

The district shall not limit the number of records requested.[\[2\]](#)

When responding to a request for access, the district is not required to create a record that does not exist nor to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner which the district does not currently use.[\[9\]](#)

Information shall be made available to individuals with disabilities in an appropriate format, upon request and with sufficient advance notice.[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

The district shall post at the administration office and on the district's website, if the district maintains a website, the following information:[\[4\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

1. Contact information for the Open Records Officer.
2. Contact information for the state's Office of Open Records or other applicable appeals officer.
3. The form to be used to file a request, with a notation that the state Office of Open Records form may also be used if the district decides to create its own form.
4. Board policy, administrative regulations and procedures governing requests for access to the district's public records.

Request for Access

A written request for access to a public record shall be submitted on the required form(s) and addressed to the Open Records Officer.[\[4\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[14\]](#)

Written requests may be submitted to the district in person, by mail, to a designated facsimile machine, and to a designated email address.

Each request must include the following information: [5][14]

1. Identification or description of the requested record, in sufficient detail.
2. Medium in which the record is requested.
3. Name and address of the individual to receive the district's response.

The district shall not require an explanation of the reason for the request or the intended use of the requested record, unless otherwise required by law. [14]

Fees

Except for the duplication fee established by the state, the Board shall approve a list of reasonable fees relative to requests for public records. The district shall maintain a list of applicable fees and disseminate the list to requesters. [15]

No fee may be imposed for review of a record to determine whether the record is subject to access under law. [15]

Prior to granting access, the district may require prepayment of estimated fees when the fees required to fulfill the request are expected to exceed \$100. [15]

The Superintendent may waive duplication fees when the requester duplicates the record or the Superintendent deems it is in the public interest to do so. [15]

Response to Request

District employees shall be directed to immediately forward requests for access to public records to the Open Records Officer. [6][16]

Upon receipt of a written request for access to a record, the Open Records Officer shall determine if the requested record is a public record and if the district has possession, custody or control of that record. [7]

The Open Records Officer shall respond as promptly as possible under the existing circumstances, and the initial response time shall not exceed five (5) business days from the date the written request is received by the Open Records Officer. [7]

The initial response shall grant access to the requested record; deny access to the requested record; partially grant and partially deny access to the requested record; notify the requester of the need for an extension of time to fully respond; or request more detail from the requester to clearly identify the requested material.

If the district fails to respond to a request within five (5) business days of receipt, the request for access shall be deemed denied. [7]

Extension of Time

If the Open Records Officer determines that an extension of time is required to respond to a request, in accordance with the factors stated in law, written notice shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of request. The notice shall indicate that the request for access is being reviewed, the reason that the review requires an extension, a reasonable date when the response is expected, and an estimate of applicable fees owed when the record becomes available. [7][17]

Up to a thirty-day extension for one (1) of the listed reasons does not require the consent of the requester. If the response is not given by the specified date, it shall be deemed denied on the day following that date.

A requester may consent in writing to an extension that exceeds thirty (30) days, in which case the request shall be deemed denied on the day following the date specified in the notice if the Open Records Officer has not provided a response by that date.

Granting of Request

If the Open Records Officer determines that the request will be granted, the response shall inform the requester that access is granted and either include information on the regular business hours of the administration office, provide electronic access, or state where the requester may go to inspect the records or information electronically at a publicly accessible site. The response shall include a copy of the fee schedule in effect, a statement that prepayment of fees is required in a specified amount if access to the records will cost in excess of \$100 and the medium in which the records will be provided.

A public record shall be provided to the requester in the medium requested if it exists in that form; otherwise, it shall be provided in its existing medium. However, the district is not required to permit use of its computers.[\[5\]](#)

The Open Records Officer may respond to a records request by notifying the requester that the record is available through publicly accessible electronic means or that the district shall provide access to inspect the record electronically. If the requester, within thirty (30) days following receipt of the district's notice, submits a written request to have the record converted to paper, the district shall provide access in printed form within five (5) days of receipt of the request for conversion to paper.[\[5\]](#)[\[18\]](#)

A public record that the district does not possess but is possessed by a third party with whom the district has contracted to perform a governmental function and which directly relates to that governmental function shall be considered a public record of the district. When the district contracts with such a third party, the district shall require the contractor to agree in writing to comply with requests for such records and to provide the district with the requested record in a timely manner to allow the district to comply with law.[\[19\]](#)

If the Open Records Officer determines that a public record contains information both subject to and not subject to access, the Open Records Officer shall grant access to the information subject to access and deny access to the information not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall redact from the record the information that is not subject to access. The Open Records Officer shall not deny access to a record if information is able to be redacted.[\[20\]](#)

If the Open Records Officer responds to a requester that a copy of the requested record is available for delivery at the administration office and the requester does not retrieve the record within sixty (60) days of the district's response, the district shall dispose of the copy and retain any fees paid to date.[\[21\]](#)

Notification to Third Parties

When the district produces a record that is not a public record in response to a request, the Open Records Officer shall notify any third party that provided the record to the district, the person that is the subject of the record, and the requester.[\[22\]](#)

The Open Records Officer shall notify a third party of a record request if the requested record contains a trade secret or confidential proprietary information, in accordance with law and administrative regulations.[\[22\]](#)

Denial of Request

If the Open Records Officer denies a request for access to a record, whether in whole or in part, a written response shall be sent within five (5) business days of receipt of the request. The response denying the request shall include the following: [\[7\]](#)[\[23\]](#).

1. Description of the record requested.
2. Specific reasons for denial, including a citation of supporting legal authority.
3. Name, title, business address, business telephone number, and signature of the Open Records Officer on whose authority the denial is issued.
4. Date of the response.
5. Procedure for the requester to appeal a denial of access.

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record if the requester has made repeated requests for that same record and the repeated requests have placed an unreasonable burden on the district. [\[19\]](#).

The Open Records Officer may deny a request for access to a record when timely access is not possible due to a disaster, or when access may cause physical damage or irreparable harm to the record. To the extent possible, a record's contents shall be made accessible even when the record is physically unavailable. [\[19\]](#).

Information that is not subject to access and is redacted from a public record shall be deemed a denial. [\[20\]](#)[\[23\]](#).

If a written request for access to a record is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file an appeal with the state's Office of Open Records within fifteen (15) business days of the mailing date of the Open Records Officer's response or deemed denial. [\[8\]](#).

Legal

1. 65 P.S. 67.102
2. 65 P.S. 67.302
3. 65 P.S. 67.305
4. 65 P.S. 67.504
5. 65 P.S. 67.701
6. 65 P.S. 67.502
7. 65 P.S. 67.901
8. 65 P.S. 67.1101
9. 65 P.S. 67.705
10. 42 U.S.C. 12132
11. 28 CFR 35.160
12. 28 CFR 35.164
13. 65 P.S. 67.505
14. 65 P.S. 67.703
15. 65 P.S. 67.1307
16. 65 P.S. 67.702
17. 65 P.S. 67.902
18. 65 P.S. 67.704
19. 65 P.S. 67.506
20. 65 P.S. 67.706
21. 65 P.S. 67.905
22. 65 P.S. 67.707
23. 65 P.S. 67.903
- 24 P.S. 408
- 24 P.S. 518
- 65 P.S. 67.101 et seq
- 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq
- Pol. 800