

# Decatur County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in July</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>School District Records</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>1.407</b>	Issued Date: <b>07/13/17</b>
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The director of schools shall maintain all school district records required by law, regulation and board  
2 policy. Any citizen of Tennessee shall be permitted during business hours to inspect public records  
3 maintained by the school district unless otherwise prohibited by law. Any citizen of Tennessee may  
4 request in writing and receive copies of open public records subject to the payment of reasonable  
5 cost.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

6 No records pertaining to individual students will be released for inspection by the public or any  
7 unauthorized persons. In addition, information, records, and plans related to security and safety will not  
8 be released for public inspection.<sup>11</sup>

9 All requests to inspect or receive copies of records shall be submitted to the district's public records  
10 request coordinator, Director of Schools.<sup>12</sup> The public records request coordinator shall forward requests  
11 for inspection or copies of records to the appropriate records custodian.<sup>12</sup>

12 Prior to producing any record, the records custodian shall ensure confidential information is redacted.  
13 Original documents remain intact and confidential information in copies produced for a requestor shall  
14 be redacted. The director of schools shall develop a procedure to redact confidential information.

## 15 **REQUESTS FOR INSPECTION<sup>2</sup>**

16 Citizens requesting to inspect public records shall submit their request and a government issued photo  
17 identification card with the citizen's address to the district's public records request coordinator during  
18 normal business hours. Requests may be made in person, in writing, or by electronic mail (email). The  
19 coordinator shall submit the information to the appropriate records custodian. The records custodian  
20 will contact the citizen and indicate when the records will be available to inspect.

21 If the records cannot be made available within seven (7) business days, the records custodian shall  
22 provide a records production letter indicating the time needed to complete the request.

23 If the request to inspect is denied, the records custodian shall provide the citizen with a records request  
24 denial letter indicating the basis for the denial.

## 25 **REQUESTS FOR COPIES<sup>2</sup>**

26 Citizens requesting copies of public records shall complete and submit the Records Request Form and  
27 a government issued photo identification card with the citizen's address to the district's public records  
28 request coordinator during normal business hours. The coordinator shall submit the Records Request  
29 Form to the appropriate records custodian.

1 The records custodian shall provide an estimate of the reasonable costs to produce the requested  
2 records. The Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Open Records Counsel Schedule of  
3 Reasonable Charges found at <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/openrecords/forms.asp> shall be used to  
4 determine the reasonable cost. The records custodian will provide the citizen with an invoice detailing  
5 the charges. The citizen shall pay the estimated reasonable costs by money order or cashier's check  
6 prior to the district producing the copies.

7 If the records cannot be made available within seven (7) business days, the records custodian shall  
8 provide a records production letter indicating the time needed to complete the request.

9 If the request for copies is denied, the records custodian shall provide the citizen with a records request  
10 denial letter detailing the basis for the denial.

### 11 **FREQUENT AND MULTIPLE REQUESTS**

12 When the total number of requests for copies made by a requestor within a calendar month exceeds  
13 four (4), the requestor may be charged a fee for any and all labor that is reasonably necessary to  
14 produce copies of the requested records. Prior to charging a reasonable fee, the requestor shall be  
15 notified of this policy and provided with a Notice of Aggregation of Multiple Requestors form. The  
16 Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Open Records Counsel Schedule of Reasonable  
17 Charges found at <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/openrecords/forms.asp> shall be used to determine the  
18 reasonable cost. Further, the names of persons inspecting records and the date of inspection shall be  
19 recorded.

### 20 **RECORDS RETENTION**

21 The director of schools and/or his designee(s) shall retain and dispose of school district records in  
22 accordance with the following guidelines:<sup>2,4</sup>

- 23 1. The director of schools and/or his/her designee(s) will determine if a particular record is of  
24 permanent or temporary value in accordance with regulations promulgated by County Public  
25 Records Commission and the Tennessee Institute for Public Services records manual;<sup>5,6</sup>
- 26 2. Temporary value records which have been kept beyond the required time may be recommended  
27 to the Public Records Commission for destruction;<sup>7,8</sup>
- 28 3. The records that the State Librarian and Archivist desire to preserve in their facilities will be  
29 transferred to the State Library and Archives. The temporary value records rejected by the State  
30 Library and Archives may be transferred to another institution or destroyed;<sup>7,8,9</sup>
- 31 4. Permanent records will be kept in some usable form (digital, printed, microfilm, etc.). If the  
32 director of schools desires to destroy the original permanent record, these records must be  
33 reproduced by microfilming or some other permanent reproduction method. Permission to  
34 destroy any original permanent record after microfilming follows the same procedure noted  
35 above for temporary records;<sup>6,8</sup> and
- 36 5. The director of schools shall establish procedures to safeguard against the unlawful destruction,  
37 removal or loss of records.<sup>10</sup>

**1 DISTRICT PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST COORDINATOR<sup>13</sup>**

2 *Branson Townsend*  
3 *Director of Schools*

4  
5 *Decatur County Board of Education*  
6 *PO Box 369*  
7 *Decaturville, TN*  
8 *(731) 852-2391*

9  
10 *branson.townsend@decaturschools.org*

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**Legal References**

1. TCA 49-2-301(b)(1)(CC)
2. TCA 10-7-503
3. TCA 10-7-506(a)
4. TCA 49-2-104
5. TCA 10-7-401
6. TCA 10-7-406
7. TCA 10-7-404
8. TCA 10-7-413
9. TCA 10-7-414
10. TCA 39-16-504
11. TCA 10-7-504(p)
12. *Policy Related to Reasonable Charges a Records Custodian May Charge for Frequent and Multiple Requests for Public Records*, Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, available at <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/openrecords/forms.asp>.
13. Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 722

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**Cross References**

Financial Reports and Records 2.701  
Personnel Records 5.114  
Student Records 6.600