

# Chapter 392-105 WAC

## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

### WAC

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### DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

392-105-013	Request to inspect and copy. [Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-013, filed 4/15/80.] Repealed by 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320.
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**WAC 392-105-001 Purpose.** Rules and regulations hereinafter set forth are established pursuant to RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.320 for the purposes of protecting public records and making them readily accessible to the public.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-001, filed 4/15/80.]

**WAC 392-105-003 Description of organization. (1)** The superintendent of public instruction is a constitutional officer of the state charged with supervision over all matters pertaining to public schools. The superintendent of public instruction is also the statutory chief executive officer of the state board of education. Administrative offices of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education are located in Olympia, Washington.

(2) Organization of the superintendent of public instruction's office is divided into four operating divisions, the office of the deputy superintendent of public instruction, and the office of the secretary (executive director) to the state board of education.

(a) The office of the secretary (executive director) to the state board of education keeps the records for all board proceedings. The secretary to the state board of education is appointed by the state board of education.

(b) The office of the deputy superintendent of public instruction directs and coordinates the activities of the four operating divisions of the agency, the offices of professional education and certification, and several agency-wide support services sections. The deputy superintendent of public

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instruction is appointed by and reports directly to the superintendent of public instruction.

(c) The division of financial services is managed by an assistant superintendent. This person is appointed by the superintendent of public instruction and reports to the deputy superintendent. The division administers state apportionment and school building assistance to the school districts, maintains agency accounts, jointly with the state auditor develops accounting manuals for school districts and educational service districts, budget forms for school districts and educational services districts (ESDs) and administers the school systems statewide financial reporting and accounting systems, provides technical assistance to school districts for accounting and budgetary systems, and administers the school lunch, pupil transportation, and federal accounts programs.

(d) The instructional programs and services division is managed by an assistant superintendent. This person is appointed by the superintendent of public instruction and reports to the deputy superintendent. The division provides a wide range of technical assistance services to school districts in the development of basic education programs, learning resources and multicultural/equity. In addition, the division has responsibility for supervising and managing supplementary federal education programs, including Chapter 1—Migrant and Chapter 2 and for administering the state's traffic safety program.

(e) The special services division is managed by an assistant superintendent. This person is appointed by the superintendent of public instruction and reports to the deputy superintendent. The division assists school districts in the development of gifted programs and health services programs and pupil personnel services, supervises the federal and state special education programs in the schools and state institutions, maintains liaison with private schools regarding all agency programs, manages the institutional education programs, and remediation programs, including the programs, including the Chapter I—Regular programs.

(f) The vocational-technical and adult education services division is managed by an assistant superintendent. This person is appointed by the superintendent of public instruction and reports to the deputy superintendent. The division administers the approval process for vocational-technical programs and procedures for distribution of federal and state funds. It also provides technical services for adult basic, industrial arts, career education, educational clinics, and community schools programs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250, 42.17.260 and 42.17.320. 85-19-007 (Order 85-9), § 392-105-003, filed 9/6/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.320. 82-19-047 (Order 82-12), § 392-105-003, filed 9/14/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-003, filed 4/15/80.]

**WAC 392-105-005 Operations and procedures.** The superintendent of public instruction is directly responsible for decisions and policies of the office but has delegated to the deputy superintendent the responsibility of developing and maintaining approved intra-agency operating policies and procedures. Each supervisory position in the agency is provided a policies and procedures manual which is frequently updated. The manual specifies job responsibilities for division and section level managers and describes procedures to be followed in operations that cut across organizational lines.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-005, filed 4/15/80.]

**WAC 392-105-007 Definitions.** (1) Public records. As used in this chapter, "public record" includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics: Provided, however, That the personal and other records cited in RCW 42.17.310 are exempt from definition of public record.

(2) Writing. As used in this chapter, "writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sound or symbols, combination thereof and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and prints, magnetic or punched cards, disks, drums, and other documents.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-007, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]

**WAC 392-105-010 Access to public records.** (1) All public records as defined by RCW 42.17.020 (26) and (28) prepared, owned, used, or retained by the superintendent of public instruction shall be available for public inspection and copying during normal office hours in the office where they are located, except for the following:

(a) Personal information in files maintained by the superintendent of public instruction to the extent that disclosure would violate any individual's right to privacy.

(b) Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or recommended, except that a specific record shall not be exempt when publicly cited by the agency in connection with any agency action.

(c) Records which are relevant to a controversy to which the agency is a party but which records would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts.

(d) Any other information which is exempt from public inspection under RCW 42.17.310 where disclosure would violate personal privacy or vital government interests.

(2) The exemptions of this section shall be inapplicable to the extent that information, the disclosure of which would violate personal privacy or vital government interests, can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exception shall be construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information when such information is not descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

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[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-010, filed 4/15/80; Order 7-75, § 392-105-010, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-12-010 (part).]

**WAC 392-105-015 Public records officer.** The agency's public records shall be in the charge of the public records officer designated by the superintendent of public instruction. The person so designated shall be located in the Old Capitol Building, Olympia, Washington 98504-7200. The public records officer shall be responsible for the following:

Implementation of the agency's rules and regulations regarding release of public records, coordinating the agency employees in this regard, and generally ensuring compliance by agency employees with the public records disclosure requirements in chapter 42.17 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-015, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-015, filed 4/15/80; Order 7-75, § 392-105-015, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-12-010 (part).]

**WAC 392-105-020 Office hours.** Public records shall be available for inspection and copying during the customary office hours of the agency. For purposes of this chapter, the customary office hours shall be from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-020, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-020, filed 4/15/80; Order 7-75, § 392-105-020, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-12-010 (part).]

**WAC 392-105-025 Requests for public records.** In accordance with the requirements of RCW 42.17.290 that agencies prevent unreasonable invasions of privacy, protect public records from damage or disorganization, and prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency, public records are only obtainable by members of the public when those members of the public comply with the following procedures:

(1) A request shall be made in writing. The written request shall be presented to the public records officer or designee at the information services office of the superintendent of public instruction during customary office hours or may also be mailed. The request shall include the following information:

(a) The name of the person requesting the record;

(b) The time of day and calendar date on which the request was made;

(c) The nature of the request;

(d) If the matter requested is referenced within the current index maintained by the public records officer, a reference to the requested record as it is described in such current index;

(e) If the requested matter is not identifiable by reference to the current index, an appropriate description of the record requested.

(2) In all cases in which a member of the public is making a request, it shall be the obligation of the public records officer, or person to whom the request is made, to assist the

member of the public in succinctly identifying the public record requested.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-025, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-025, filed 4/15/80; Order 7-75, § 392-105-025, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-12-010 (part).]

**WAC 392-105-030 Copying.** No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records. The superintendent of public instruction may impose a reasonable charge for providing copies of public records and for the use by any person of agency equipment to copy public records; such charges shall not exceed the amount necessary to reimburse SPI for its actual costs incident to such copying. No person shall be released a record so copied until and unless the person requesting the copied public record has tendered payment for such copying to the appropriate official. All charges must be paid by money order, check, or cash in advance.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 - [42.17].320. 93-07-039 (Order 93-05), § 392-105-030, filed 3/11/93, effective 4/11/93; 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-030, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 90-22-044 (Order 39), § 392-105-030, filed 11/2/90, effective 12/3/90; 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-030, filed 4/15/80; Order 7-75, § 392-105-030, filed 12/22/75. Formerly WAC 392-12-010 (part).]

**WAC 392-105-035 Determination regarding exempt records.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction reserves the right to determine that a public record requested in accordance with the procedures outlined in WAC 392-105-025 is exempt pursuant to the provisions set forth in RCW 42.17.310 and 42.17.315. Such determination may be made in consultation with the public records officer, counsel for administrative law services, or an assistant attorney general assigned to the agency.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 42.17.260, the superintendent of public instruction reserves the right to delete identifying details when it makes available or publishes any public record when there is reason to believe that disclosure of such details would be an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy: Provided, however, In each case, the justification for the deletion shall be explained fully in writing.

(3) Response to requests for a public record must be made promptly. Within five business days of receiving a public record request, the superintendent of public instruction shall respond by either:

- (a) Providing the record;
- (b) Acknowledging that the superintendent of public instruction has received the request and providing a reasonable estimate of the time the agency will require to respond to the request; or
- (c) Denying the public record request.

Additional time required to respond to a request may be based upon the need to clarify the intent of the request, to locate and assemble the information requested, to notify third persons or agencies affected by the request, or to determine whether any of the information requested is exempt and that a denial should be made as to all or part of the request. In acknowledging receipt of a public record request that is unclear, the superintendent of public instruction may ask the requestor to clarify what information the requestor is seeking.

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If the requestor fails to clarify the request, the superintendent of public instruction need not respond to it.

(4) All denials of request for public records must be accompanied by a written statement, signed by the public records officer or his/her designee, specifying the reason for the denial, a statement of the specific exemption authorizing the withholding of the record, and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the public record withheld.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 - [42.17].320. 93-07-039 (Order 93-05), § 392-105-035, filed 3/11/93, effective 4/11/93; 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-035, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 and 42.17.260. 80-05-034 (Order 80-5), § 392-105-035, filed 4/15/80.]

**WAC 392-105-040 Review of denials of public records requests.** (1) Any person who objects to the denial of a request for a public record may petition for prompt review of such decision by tendering a written request for review. The written request shall specifically refer to the written statement which constituted or accompanied the denial.

(2) The written request by a person demanding prompt review of a decision denying a public record shall be submitted to the SPI or his or her designee.

(3) Within two business days after receiving the written request by a person petitioning for a prompt review of a decision denying a public record, the superintendent of public instruction or his or her designee, shall complete such review.

(4) During the course of the review the superintendent of public instruction or his or her designee shall consider the obligations of the agency fully to comply with the intent of chapter 42.17 RCW insofar as it requires providing full public access to official records, but shall also consider both the exemptions provided in RCW 42.17.310 through 42.17.315, and the provisions of the statute which require the agency to protect public records from damage or disorganization, prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency, and prevent any unreasonable invasion of personal privacy by deleting identifying details.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 - [42.17].320. 93-07-039 (Order 93-05), § 392-105-040, filed 3/11/93, effective 4/11/93; 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-040, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]

**WAC 392-105-045 Records index—Inspection.** The superintendent of public instruction does maintain current indexes of public records as required by RCW 42.17.260(2) and 34.05.220. The indexes identify agency personnel authorized to release/copy public records as indexed and is available for inspection/copying in the offices of the superintendent of public instruction in Olympia, Washington. The indexes shall be kept current and maintained by the superintendent's designee(s), the information services office, or in the case of records of appeal and rules information, legal services, and shall be updated no less frequently than annually. All indexes maintained shall be categorized by program or section, title, and/or description, or a combination of these, as appropriate.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-045, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]

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**WAC 392-105-050 Protection of public records.** Public records and a facility for their inspection will be provided by the public records officer. Such records shall not be removed from the place designated. Copies of such records may be arranged according to the provisions of WAC 392-105-030.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-050, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]

**WAC 392-105-055 List of employees and elected officers.** Pursuant to RCW 42.17.260(5), the superintendent of public instruction or employees of the superintendent of public instruction will not give, sell or provide access to lists of names of agency employees, school district employees, or elected officers for commercial purposes except as otherwise now or hereafter provided by law.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 through [42.17].320. 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-055, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]

**WAC 392-105-060 Records index.** (1) The agency has available for the use of all persons a current index which provides identifying information as to the following records issued, adopted, or promulgated by the agency after June 30, 1972:

(a) Final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, as well as orders, made in the adjudicated cases;

(b) Those statements of policy and interpretative policy, statute and the constitution which have been adopted by the agency;

(c) Administrative staff manuals and instructional staff that affect a member of the public;

(d) Planning policies and goals, and interim and planning decisions;

(e) Factual staff reports and studies, factual consultant's reports and studies, scientific reports and studies, and any other factual information derived from tests, studies, reports, or surveys, whether conducted by public employees or others; and

(f) Correspondence, and materials referred to therein, by and with the agency relating to any regulatory, supervisory, or enforcement responsibilities of the agency, whereby the agency determines, or opines upon, or is asked to determine or opine upon, the rights of the state, the public, a subdivision of state government, or of any private party.

(2) The current index maintained by the agency shall be available to all persons under the same rules and all the same conditions as are applied to public records available for inspection.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17.250 - [42.17].320. 93-07-039 (Order 93-05), § 392-105-060, filed 3/11/93, effective 4/11/93; 92-10-016 (Order 92-04), § 392-105-060, filed 4/28/92, effective 5/29/92.]