

Chapter 132D-276 WAC

ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

WAC

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WAC 132D-276-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that Community College District No. 4 complies with the provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW, Disclosure—Campaign finances—Lobbying—Records; and in particular with sections 250 through 340 of that chapter, dealing with public records.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-010, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-020 Definitions. (1) Public records. "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. "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds 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.

(3) Community College District No. 4. "Community College District No. 4 (Skagit Valley College)" is an agency organized by statute pursuant to RCW 28B.50.040. Community College District No. 4 shall hereafter be referred to as the "district." Where appropriate, the term "district" also refers to the staff and employees of the district.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-020, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-030 Description of central and field organization of Community College District No. 4. (1) Community College District No. 4 is a state agency established and organized under the authority of chapter 28B.50 RCW for the purpose of implementing the educational goals established by the legislature in RCW 28B.50.020. The administrative office of the district is located on the Skagit

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Valley campus within the city of Mount Vernon, Washington. The Mount Vernon campus likewise comprises the central headquarters for all operations of the district. Field activities for the Whidbey Branch of the district are administered by personnel located at the Whidbey Branch in Oak Harbor, Washington; all other field activities of the district are directed and administered by personnel located on the campus at Mount Vernon.

(2) The district is operated under the supervision and control of a board of trustees. The board of trustees consists of five members appointed by the governor. The board of trustees normally meets at least once each month, as provided in WAC 132D-104-020. The board of trustees employs a president, an administrative staff, members of the faculty and other employees. The board of trustees takes such actions and promulgates such rules, regulations, and policies in harmony with the rules and regulations established by the state board for community college education, as are necessary to the administration and operation of the district.

(3) The president of the district is responsible to the board of trustees for the operation and administration of the district. A detailed description of the administrative organization of the district is contained within the Policies and Procedures Manual for Community College District No. 4, a current copy of which is available for inspection at the administrative office of the district.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-030, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-040 Operations and procedures. (1) Formal decision-making procedures are established by the board of trustees through rules promulgated in accordance with the requirements of chapter 28B.19 RCW, the Higher Education Administration Procedure Act (HEAPA), and chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act.

(2) Informal decision-making procedures at the college, as established by the board of trustees, are set forth in the Policies and Procedures Manual of Community College District No. 4, a current copy of which is available for inspection at the administrative office of the district.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-040, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-050 Public records available. All public records of the district, as defined in this chapter, are deemed to be available for public inspection and copying pursuant to these rules, except as otherwise provided by RCW 42.17.310.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-050, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-060 Public records officer. The district's public records shall be in the charge of the public

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records officer designated by the chief administrative officer of the district. The person so designated shall be located in the district administrative office. The public records officer shall be responsible for the following: Implementation of the district's rules and regulations regarding release of public records, coordinating the district employees in this regard, and generally ensuring compliance by district employees with the public records disclosure requirements in chapter 42.17 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-060, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-070 Office hours. Public records shall be available for inspection and copying during the customary office hours of the district. For purposes of this chapter, the customary office hours shall be from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays and holidays established by the college calendar.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-070, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-080 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 upon a form prescribed by the district which shall be available at the district administrative office. The form shall be presented to the public records officer or, if the public records officer is not available, to any member of the district's staff at the district administrative office during customary office hours. 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 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-080, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-090 Charges for public records. Calculating the actual costs of charges for providing public records is unduly burdensome because it will consume scarce college resources to conduct a study of actual costs, and it is

difficult to accurately calculate all costs directly incident to copying records, including equipment and paper costs, data storage costs, electronic production costs, and staff time for copying and sending requested records. Instead of calculating the actual costs of charges for records, the college president or designee shall establish, maintain, and make available for public inspection and copying a statement of costs that the college charges for providing photocopies or electronically produced copies of public records, and such charges for records shall not exceed the maximum default charges allowed in RCW 42.56.120 (2)(b). The college may also use any other method authorized by the Public Records Act for imposing charges for public records including, but not limited to, charging a flat fee, charging a customized service charge, or charging based on a contract, memorandum of understanding, or other agreement with a requestor. The college may waive charges assessed for records when the public records officer determines collecting a fee is not cost effective.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.150. WSR 17-24-078, § 132D-276-090, filed 12/5/17, effective 1/5/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-090, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-100 Determination regarding exempt records. (1) The district reserves the right to determine that a public record requested in accordance with the procedures outlined in WAC 132D-276-080 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, president of the college district, or an assistant attorney general assigned to the district.

(2) Pursuant to RCW 42.17.260, the district 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. For the purposes of this section, a prompt response occurs if the person requesting the public record is notified within two business days as to whether his request for a public record will be honored.

(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 28B.50.140. WSR 89-11-024 (Order 89-07), § 132D-276-100, filed 5/11/89.]

WAC 132D-276-110 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.

