



Bangor Public Schools

"Providing Educational Excellence as a Pathway to Success"

BANGOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The Bangor Public Schools District is a "public body," as defined in Section 2 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.232. It is the policy of Bangor Public School District (herein referred to as School District) to comply with the FOIA. **The Superintendent (or designee) is the School District's FOIA Coordinator** and is delegated the authority and responsibility to establish written procedures and guidelines, a written public summary of the procedures and guidelines, and a detailed itemization of fees form in compliance with the FOIA as amended effective July 1, 2015 (2014 PA 563). The School District's Procedures and Guidelines which includes a written public summary of the same and a detailed itemization of fees form follow.

Procedures and Guidelines

The Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.03115.246, provides for public access to certain public records, permits charging of prescribed fees and deposits, and provides remedies for and penalties for noncompliance. A person has a right to inspect, copy, or receive copies of certain requested public records. Some public records are permitted or required not to be disclosed. The School District is a public body that must comply with the FOIA. The School District has established the following Procedures and Guidelines to implement the FOIA effective immediately. For purposes of these Procedures and Guidelines, terms have the same meaning as defined in the FOIA. A complete copy of the FOIA is available on the Michigan Legislature's website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

These Procedures and Guidelines (which include a Public Summary and an Itemized Fee Form) are available on the School District's website at www.Bangorvikings.org. This link or a physical copy of the Procedures and Guidelines will be included in each of the School Districts' FOIA responses. Paper copies of the Procedures and Guidelines are available upon request by a visitor at the School District's Central Office located at 801 W. Arlington St. Bangor, MI 49013.



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WRITTEN PUBLIC SUMMARY

A. How to Submit Written Request

A written request to inspect, copy or review a public record should be submitted to the School District's FOIA Coordinator.

*FOIA request can be sent via U.S. Mail to:

FOIA Coordinator
Bangor Public Schools
801 W. Arlington St.
Bangor, MI 49013

*FOIA Request sent via email should be sent to pmccartney@bangorvikings.org

*FOIA request sent via fax should be faxed to: 269/427-8274

A request must describe the public record insufficient detail to enable the School District to find the requested record, a sample Request Form is appended to these Procedures and Guidelines as Attachment A. A person may subscribe to future issuances of public records created, issued, or disseminated by the School District on a regular basis, such as notices of school board meetings. A subscription is valid for up to 6 months and may be renewed by the subscriber.

In lieu of paper copies, the requestor may stipulate that the School District provide nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media, electronically mailed, or otherwise electronically provided,. The School District is not required to produce nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media if the School District lacks the technological capability necessary to provide the requested record on the particular non-paper physical media stipulated in the particular instance. The School District is not required to use non-paper physical media provided by the requestor and, to safeguard the School Districts information technology infrastructure, shall not do so. A person may request a certified copy of a public record.

In lieu of paper copies, the requestor may stipulate that the School District provide nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media, electronically mailed, or otherwise electronically provided. The School District is not required to produce nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media if the School District lacks the technological capability stipulated in the particular instance. The School District is not required to use the non-paper physical media *provided by the requestor* and to safeguard the School District's information technology infrastructure, shall not do so. A person may request a certified copy of a public record.



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B. Explanation of Written Responses

The School District will respond to a written request under the FOIA within five (5) business days (excluding weekends and legal holidays) after the School District receives the written request, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the requestor. The FOIA defines the date of receipt by the School District differently depending upon how the request was delivered to the School District (e.g., hand delivery, regular mail, and email, facsimile).

The School District will respond to a request by doing one of the following: (a) granting the request; (b) issuing a written notice denying the request; (c) granting the request in part and issuing a written notice denying the request in part; or (d) issuing a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the School District will respond to the request.

The School District shall not issue more than one (1) notice of extension for a particular request. If a requestor asks for information that is available on the School District's website, the School District will notify the requestor in its response where the records may be found on its website. Paper copies of public records available on the School District's website will be made available upon request but a fee may be charged as explained in Section II and on the detailed fee itemization form.

The School District will provide reasonable facilities for a requestor to inspect nonexempt public records. The facilities will be available during the School District's normal business hours. The FOIA Coordinator will establish rules regulating the manner in which records may be inspected to protect the School District's records from loss, alteration, mutilation, or destruction or to prevent undue interference with the School District's normal operations.

If a request is denied in whole or in part the School District will include in the written notice of denial an explanation of the basis for the denial and, if applicable, a certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given by the requestor or by another name reasonably known to the School District. A sample Certificate of Non-Existence of Public Record is appended as **Attachment B**. If a public record or information is separated and exempt from disclosure (redacted), the School District will describe generally the material exempt unless that description would reveal the contents of the exempt information and thus defeat the purpose of the exception.



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C. Deposit Requirements

Where the school district estimates that the fee authorized under the FOIA and these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for responding to a request will exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), the School District may require a good faith deposit from the requestor before providing the requested records. A good-faith deposit shall not exceed one half (1/2) of the total estimated fee and shall include a detailed itemization of the allowable fees estimated to be incurred by the School District to process the request. The School District will include with its request for a good-faith deposit a best efforts estimate of the time frame within which the school District will provide the requested public records. The time frame estimate is not binding on the school District but will be made in good faith and the School District will strive to be reasonably accurate.

If a requestor previously requested public records from the School District, and if the School District made the requested public records available on a timely basis but was not paid in full the total estimated fee for the previous request, the School District may, to the extent permitted by the FOIA, require a deposit of up to 100% of the estimated fee for the subsequent request(s).

D. Fee Calculations

The FOIA permits the School District to charge six fee components: (a) labor cost of searching for, locating, and examining public records; (b) labor cost of separating or deleting or redacting exempt information from nonexempt information; (c) labor cost to duplicate or publish requested public records; (d) actual cost of paper copies (not to exceed 10 cents per sheet for standard 8 ½ by 11 or 8 ½ by 14 sheets of paper); (e) actual cost of nonpaper physical media (e.g. flash drive, CD) if requested and if the School District has the technological capability to comply; and (f) actual cost of postal delivery. For more detailed information about the School District's fee calculations, including fee reductions for untimely responses, see Section II.D of the Procedures and Guidelines and Attachment C, Detailed Itemization of Fee Amounts Form. The FOIA Coordinator will require that payment be made in full for the allowable fees before the requested records are made available.

1. Fee Waivers. A search for public record may be conducted or copies of public records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge if the School District determines that a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because searching for or furnishing copies of the public records can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.



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2. Discounts. Under the following circumstances, a public record search shall be made by the School District and a copy of the nonexempt public record shall be furnished with charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee:

- a. If an individual who is entitled to information under the FOIA:
 - *submits an affidavit stating that the individual is receiving specific public assistance or is unable to pay the fee because of indigence and stating that the individual is not making the request in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment of other remuneration; and
 - *that individual has not previously received discounted copies of public records from the School District twice during the same calendar year.
- b. If a nonprofit corporation formally desiccated by the State of Michigan to carry our activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act 2000m, Public Law 106402, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99319, or their successors, submits a request that meets the following requirements:
 - *Is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients;
 - *Is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931; and
 - *Is accompanied by documentation of its desiccation by the state, if requested by the School District.

E. Avenues for Challenge and Appeal

1. Challenge to Record Denial. If the School District fails to respond to a FOIA request or makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a request, the requesting person may submit an appeal to the School District's Board of Education or may commence an action in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or one of School District's office is located. See Section II E of these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for a more detailed explanation of the procedures and timelines for appealing a record denial.



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2. **Challenge to Fee.** If the School District requests a fee that the requestor believes exceeds the amount permitted under the FOIA of the School District's publicly available procedures and guidelines the requesting person may commence an action in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or one of the School District's offices is located. See Section II. E of these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for a more detailed expiation of the procedures and timelines for a fee appeal.

I. PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

A. Requests

1. All "persons," except those persons incarcerated in state or local correctional facilities, are entitled to submit a FOIA request to the School District. A "person" is defined for the purpose of the FOIA to mean "an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm, organization, association, governmental entity, or legal entity."
2. A FOIA request is a *written* request to inspect, copy, or receive copies of a public record. A request must describe the public record in sufficient detail to enable the School District to find the requested record, The School District suggest that requestors use the sample Request Form appended as **Attachment A**
3. FOIA requests must be made in writing. If, however, a person makes an oral request for information that is available on the School Districts' website, and if the employee to who the request is directed knows that the information is available on the School District's website, that employee must inform the requesting person that the information is available on the School District's website.
4. The School District's FOIA Coordinator is responsible to process the request to inspect, copy, or receive copies of public records. FOIA requests should be sent to the School District's' FOIA Coordinator.

*FOIA request can be sent via U.S. Mail to;
FOIA Coordinator
Bangor Public Schools
801W. Arlington St.
Bangor, MI 49013

801 West Arlington Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013
Phone: (269) 427-6800 | Fax: (269) 427-8274



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*FOIA requests sent via email should be sent to: pmccartney@bangorvikings.org.

*FOIA request sent via fax should be faxed to: 269/427-8274.

If an employee of the School District receives a written request to inspect, copy, or receive copies of a public record. The employee should promptly forward the request to the School District's FOIA Coordinator. A requestor is not required to use the School District's sample Request Form, or to include the word "FOIA" in the request. Therefore, all written requests to inspect, copy, or receive copies of records should be promptly forwarded to the FOIA Coordinator for review.

5. The FOIA Coordinator shall keep a copy of all written requests for public records received by the School District on file for a period of at least one year.

6. A person may subscribe to future issuances of public records created, issued or disseminated on a regular basis, such as notices or agendas of school board meetings. In all other respects, if the request public record does not exist as of the date requested, the School District has no obligation under the FOIA to create the requested record or to provide a copy if created at a later date. A subscription is valid for up to 6 months and may be renewed by the subscriber.

7. The FOIA Coordinator shall, upon written request, furnish a certified copy of a public record to the requestor.

B. Responses.

1. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, the School District must respond to a written request under the FOIA within five (5) business days (Excluding weekends and legal holidays) after the School District receives the request by doing one of the following:

- a. Granting the request;
- b. Sending written notice denying the request;
- c. Granting the request in part and issuing a written notice denying the request in part;

or

- d. Issuing a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the School District will respond to the request. The School District shall not issue more than one (1) notice of extension for a particular request.



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2. If a request is denied in whole or in part, the School District must include in the written notice of denial an explanation of the basis for the denial and, if applicable, a certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given by the requestor or by another name reasonably known to the School District. A sample Certificate of Non-Existence of Public Record is appended as **Attachment B**.

a. Exemptions to disclosure are set forth in Section 13 of the FOI, MCL 15.243, which is available on the Michigan Legislatures' website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

b. If a public record or information is separated and exempt from disclosure (redacted) the School District will describe generally the material exempted unless that description would reveal the contents of the exempt information and thus defeat the purpose of the exemption.

3. The trigger dated for responding to a FOIA request depends upon the manner in which the request was delivered. A request sent by mail or delivered by hand is received for purposes of the FOIA on the day it arrives at the School District. A request sent by email, fax, or other electronic means is received for purposes of the FOIA one (1) business day after the date on which it was electronically transmitted. If a request is sent by email and is diverted to the School District spam or junk mail folder the request is not received until one (1) day after it is discovered in the spam or junk mail folder. The FOIA Coordinator shall include in the School District's records both the time that a written request was delivered to its spam or junk mail folder and the time that the School District first became aware of that request. The School District shall review the FOIA Coordinator's spam or junk mail folder at least every 30 days.

4. If a request is fully granted, the School District will provide copies of, or an opportunity to inspect, all the public records that were requested, upon payment of the appropriate fee (if any). No pages will be left out and nothing will be redacted.

5. The School District will provide reasonable facilities for a requestor to inspect nonexempt public records. The facilities will be available during the School District's normal business hours. The FOIA Coordinator will establish rules and regulate the manner in which records may be inspected to protect the School District's records from loss, alteration, mutilation, or destruction, or to prevent undue interference with the School District's normal operations.



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6. The FOIA identifies numerous specific exemptions to disclosure. If a request includes information that is exempt from disclosure, the School District will provide a written response and list the reason (s) why the record(s) or portions of records will not be disclosed. The School District will include a link to, or a copy of these Written Procedures and Guidelines (including the Public Summary and Attachments) with each denial.

7. If a request is partially denied, it means that some records or parts of records will be disclosed but some record or parts of records will not be disclosed. The School District will provide copies of, or an opportunity to inspect the nonexempt records, but exempt information (Which may consist of entire documents, pages, or information on a page) may be withheld or redacted. The School District will include in the written notice of denial-in-part an explanation of the basis for the denial-in-part and, if applicable, a certification that one or more of the public records does not exist under the name given by the requestor or by another name reasonably known to the School District. The School District will include a link to, or copy of. These Written Procedures and Guidelines (Including the Public Summary and Attachments) with each denial.

8. Failure of the School District to respond to a FOIA request within the prescribed timelines constitutes denial of the request. The fee that the School District is permitted to charge will be reduced by 5% per day, up to 50% reduction. If the failure to timely respond was willful or intentional, or if the request included language described in the FOIA as readily conveying a FOIA request. (See Section II D, Fees).

9. The FOIA does not require the School District to create any records, or to make compilations, summaries, or reports of existing records. If a request seeks records that do not exist. The School District will certify that no records responsive to the request exist under the name or description provided in the request or another name known to the School District. (See sample Certificate of Non-Existence of Public Record appended as **Attachment B**)

10. If a request asks for information that is available on the School Districts website, the School Districts will notify the requestor in its response where the records may be found. If a requestor seeks paper copies of information available on the website the School District may charge the fees noted below and on the detailed fee itemization form except that there will be no charge for separating exempt from nonexempt.



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11. In lieu of paper copies, the requestor may stipulate that the School District provide nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media, by electronic mail, or other electronic means. The School District is not required to produce nonexempt public records on non-paper physical media if the School District lacks the technological capability necessary to provide the requested record on the particular non-paper physical media stipulated in the particular instance. The School District is not required to use non-paper physical media provided by the requestor and to safeguard the School District's information technology infrastructure shall not do so.

C. Deposit Requirements

1. Where the School District estimates that the fee authorized under FOIA and these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for responding to a request will exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), the School District may require a good-faith deposit from the requestor before providing the requested records. A good faith deposit shall not exceed one half (1/2) of the total estimated fee and shall include a detailed itemization of estimated fee amounts. The FOIA Coordinator shall provide the requestor with a detailed itemization of the allowable fees estimated to be incurred by the School District to process the request. The School District shall include with its request for good-faith deposit a best effort to describe the estimate of the time frame within which the School District will provide the requested public records. The time frame estimate is not binding on the School District, but the estimate will be made in good faith and the School District will strive to be reasonably accurate.

2. If a requestor previously requested public records from the School District, and if the School District made the requested public records available on a timely basis but was not paid in full the total estimated fee for that previous request, the School District may, to the extent permitted by the FOIA, require a deposit of up to 100% of the estimated fee for the subsequent request(s).

D. Fees

1. A fee shall not be charged for the cost to search, examine, review, and delete/separate/redact exempt from nonexempt information unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonable high costs to the School District. In determining whether such costs are "unreasonable high," the School District will consider on a case by case basis, the estimated costs given the volume and complexity of the request relative to the usual or typical costs incurred by the School District in responding to a FOIA request.



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2. Fees are calculated using the detailed fee itemization form appended to these Guidelines and Procedures as **Attachment C**. The School District charges the following fees:

a. *Labor costs incurred for searching for, locating, and examining public records.* Labor costs are calculated in 15 minute increments (rounded down) and will not exceed the hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of searching for, locating, and examining the public records. No overtime will be charged unless requested by the requestor, approved by the School District, and included on the fee itemization form. The hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of searching for, locating, and examining particular records may vary depending upon the nature of the records sought and the corresponding qualifications or authorizations required to search for, locate, or examine the requested record. All charges will be noted on the fee itemization form.

b. *Labor cost for separation g and deleting exempt information from nonexempt information.* Labor costs are calculated in 15 minute increments (rounded down) and will not exceed the hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of separating and deleting material that is exempt from disclosure from information that is non-exempt from disclosure. No overtime will be charged unless requested by the requestor, approved by the School District, and included on the fee itemization form. The hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of separating and deleting exempt information from nonexempt information may vary depending upon the nature of the records sought and the corresponding qualification or authorizations required to separate and redact exempt information from nonexempt information. If the School District’s FOIA Coordinator determines on a case by case basis that no employee of the School Districts capable of separating and deleting exempt from nonexempt material, the School District may engage a contracted services provider and charge labor cost. Such labor cost shall be calculated in 15 minute increments (rounded down) and the hourly rate shall not exceed six (6) times the state minimum wage. All charges will be noted on the fee itemization form.

c. *Cost of nonpaper physical media.* Requestor may stipulated that records be produced on nonpaper physical media (e.g., on a flash drive or CD). If the School District has the technological capabilities to comply with the request for production on nonpaper physical media, the School District may charge the actual and most reasonably



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economical cost of the requested non paper physical media and the cost of nonpaper physical media shall be included on the fee itemization form.

d. *Actual cost of duplication for paper records.* The School District will charge the actual cost of duplication (not to exceed 10 cents per sheet) for 8 ½ by 11 sheets of paper or 8 ½ by 14 inch sheets of paper. The actual cost of duplication will be charged for nonstandard sized sheets of paper and may exceed the 10 cents per sheet. The School District shall utilize the most economical means available for making copies of public records, including using double sided printing , if cost savings are applicable.

e. *Actual labor cost for duplication of publication.* The School District’s charges for duplication or publication will not exceed the hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of duplicating or publishing the records. The hourly rate of the lowest paid employee capable of duplicating or publishing the records may vary depending on the nature of the records sought. Duplication or publication fees are calculated in 15 minute increments (rounded down). All charges will be noted on the fee itemization form.

f. *Postal delivery charges.* The School District may charge the cost of the least expensive form of postal delivery. If a requestor asks for expedited mailing, and the School District agrees to provide the expedited mailing, the actual cost of the expedited mailing may be charged and must be included on the fee itemization form.

g. *Fringe benefits.* The School District may add to the labor charge described above the actual cost of the public employee’s fringe benefits, up to 50% of the labor costs. Fringe benefits must be noted on the fee itemization form.

h. *Overtime wages.* No overtime wages will be charged unless requested by the requestor, approved by the School District, and included on the fee itemization form.

3. Each of the fee components described above must be specifically listed on the fee itemization form. A complete copy of the fee itemization form will be included with the response to the request. A copy of the fee itemization form will be included with the response to the request. A copy of the fee itemization form is appended to these Written Procedures and Guidelines as **Attachment C**



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4. Fee Reductions. If the FOIA Coordinator does not respond to a written request within the timeframes required by the FOIA, the School District will reduce the charges for labor costs otherwise permitted under the FOIA and these Procedures and Guidelines by 5% for each day the School District exceeds the time permitted for a response to the request, up to a maximum 50% reduction, if either of the following applies:

- *The late response was willful and intentional
- * The written request included language that conveyed a request for information within the first 250 words of the body of a letter, facsimile, electronic mail, or electronic mail attachment, or specifically included the words, characters, or abbreviations for "freedom of information," "information," "FOIA," "copy," or recognizable misspelling of such, or appropriate legal code reference for this act, on the front of an envelope, or in the subject line of an electronic mail, letter, or facsimile cover page.

If a fee reduction is required, the School District will fully note the fee reduction of the detailed itemization of fees (**Attachment C**).

5. Payment. The FOIA Coordinator will require that payments be made in full for the allowable fees before the requested records are made available.

6. Fee Waivers. A search for public records may be conducted, or copies of public records may be furnished, without charge or a reduced charge if the School District determines in its discretion, that a waiver of reduction of the fee is in the public interest because searching for or furnishing copies of the public records can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.

7. Discounts. Under the following circumstances, a public record search shall be made by the School District and a copy of a nonexempt public record shall be furnished with charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee:

- a. If an individual who is entitled to information under FOIA:
 - *submits an affidavit stating that the individual is receiving specific public assistance or is unable to pay the fee because indigence and stating that the individual is not making the



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request in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment or other remuneration; and

b. If a nonprofit corporation formally designated by the State of Michigan to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99319, or their successors, submits a requests that meets all of the following requirements:

*Is made on behalf of the organization or its clients;

*Is made for reasons wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931; and

*Is accompanied by documentation of its desiccation by the state, if requested by the School District.

E. Appeals

A requestor may appeal and denial or records or any fee charged for public records.

1. Challenge to Record Denial. If the School District denies a request of records, the requestor may either:

*Appeal to the School District's Board of Education; or

*Commence an action in the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan within 180 days of denial.

a. If the requestor appeals to the Board of Education, the appeal must specifically state the word "appeal" and state the reason (s) that the denial should be reversed. The following rules apply to record denials appeals to the board of education:

i. An appeal is not "received" until the first regularly scheduled board meeting after the appeal is submitted.

ii. Within ten (10) business days after receiving the appeal, the Board of Education will do one of the following:

A. Reverse the denial;

B. Issue written notice upholding the denial;

C. Reverse the denial in part and issue written notice upholding the denial, in part;

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D. Issue written notice extending the time for response by not more than 10 business days.

iii. If the Board of Education fails to respond in a timely manner to the written appeal, or upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of written appeal the requestor may seek judicial review by commencing a civil action in circuit court.

b. A requestor is not required to submit an appeal to the Board of Education before commencing a civil action in circuit court to challenge a disclosure denial. If a circuit court determines that the requested record is not exempt from disclosure, the court will order the School District to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of the public record determined to have been wrongfully withheld. IF the court determines that a disclosure denial was arbitrary and capricious, willful and intentional, or made in bad faith, the court will order that the School District pay a civil fine to the state and punitive damages to the requestor. If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record *prevails* in an action commenced in the circuit court, the court shall also require that the School District pay the requestor’s reasonable attorneys’ fees, cost, and disbursements. If the requestor or the School District *prevails in part*, the court may in, in its discretion, award the School District all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys’ fees, cost, and disbursements.

2. Challenge to Fee. If the School District requires a fee (as defined to include a deposit) that requestor believes exceeds the amount permitted under the FOIA or these publically available Procedures and Guidelines, the requesting person may, within 45 days after receiving notice of the required fee, commence an action in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or one of School District’s offices is located.

a. If a court determines that the fee exceeds the amount permitted under the FOIA or these Procedures and Guidelines, the court will reduce the fee to the permissible amount (if any).

b. If the requesting person prevails in an action commenced under this section by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and disbursements.



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c. If the court determines that the School District arbitrarily and capriciously violated FOIA by charging an excessive fee, or acted in bad faith, the court will order that the School District pay a civil fine to the state and punitive damages to the requestor.

F. Questions

Any questions about these Written Procedures and Guidelines should be directed to the School District's FOIA Coordinator.

G. Attachments

1. Sample FOIA Request Form
2. Sample Certification of Nonexistence of Public Record
3. Standard for Detailed itemization of Fee Amounts



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Attachment A

Sample FOIA Request Form

(CURRENT DATE)

Superintendent
Bangor Public Schools
801 W. Arlington St.
Bangor, MI 49013

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Coordinator:

I am writing To request pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq., [to inspect] [to copy] [to obtain copies of] the following public records:

[INSERT DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS SOUGHT]

OPTIONAL: Please provide a copy of the requested public records on [INSERT DESCRIPTION OF DESIRED NONPAPER PHYSICAL MEDIUM SUCH AS A CD, FLASHDRIVE].

OPTIONAL: Please waive or reduce the fee to search for or furnish copies of the requested public records on grounds that a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because searching for or furnishing copies of the public records can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.

OPTIONAL: Please furnish the requested records without charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee because (A) I am receiving public assistance [INSERT SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION] or am unable to pay because in indigence; (B) I am not making this request in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment or other remunerations; and (C) I have not previously received discounted copies of public records from Bangor Public Schools.

OPTIONAL: Please furnish the requested records without charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee because (A) this request is made directly on behalf of a nonprofit corporation



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formally designated by the State of Michigan to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act 2000, Public Law 106402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99319, or their successors, or on behalf of its clients: (B) this request is made wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931; and (C) this request is accompanied by documentation of designation by the state.

OPTIONAL: I am writing to request, pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq. to subscribe for up to six months to the following future issuances of public records created, issues, or disseminated by Bangor Public Schools on a regular basis: [INSERT SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION].

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Requestor Name]

[Requestor Address]

[Requestor Email]

[Requestor Phone Number]



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ATTACHMENT B

SAMPLE CERTIFICATION OF NON EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC RECORD

[CURRENT DATE]

[REQUESTOR'S NAME / ADDRESS]

Re: Freedom of Information Act Requested Dated _____, 20_____.

The Bangor Public School District is in receipt of your letter dated _____, 20_____, regarding a request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Your letter was received on [INSERT STATUTORY RECIEPT DATE]. Your requested [INSERT DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS SOUGHT]. I hereby certify, pursuant to Section 5(4)(b) of the FOIA, that your FOIA request is denied because, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, no public records exist as of [INSERT STATUTORY RECEIPT DATE], under the names(s) set forth in your request as detailed below, nor under another name reasonably known to the School District. MCL 15.235(4)(b).

RIGHT TO APPEAL DISCLOSURE DENIAL AND RECOVER ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS

If a public body makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a FOIA request, the requesting person may do one of the following at his or her option: (1) Submit to the "head of the public body" (the School Board) a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial' or (2) Commence an action in the circuit court to compel the public body's disclosure of public records.

If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under section 10 of the FOIA, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, cost, and disbursements. If the person of public body prevails in part, the court may in its discretion award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The awards shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function, If the circuit court determines in an action commenced under section 10 of the FOIA that the School District arbitrarily and capriciously violated the



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FOIA by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, or that the School District willfully and intentionally failed to comply with the FOIA or otherwise acted in bad faith the court shall award in addition to any actual compensatory damages, punitive damages as prescribed in the FOIA to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public records as part of its public function.

A full explanation of your right to seek either appeal of judicial review is set forth in section 10 of the FOIA, MCL 15.240

A copy of the School District’s FOIA Procedures and Guidelines is available on the School District’s website at www.bangorvikings.org.

Very truly yours,

By: _____

FOIA Coordinator, Bangor Public Schools



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ATTACHMENT C

Standard Form for Detailed Itemization of Fee Amounts

The Standard Form for Detailed Itemization of Fee Amounts equals that created by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget Pursuant to MCL 15.234(4); DMB50 Rev 6-15.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.234 (the FOIA of the "act"), the following cost will be charged for responses to FOIA request, pursuant to the FOIA Fee Schedule adopted and periodically reviewed by the Bangor Public Schools.

A fee for labor is being charged because the failure to do so will result in unreasonable high cost to Bangor Public Schools District because of the nature of the request in this particular instance. Specifically, [identify the nature of this unreasonable high cost(s)].

Labor cost shall not be more than the current hourly wage of Bangor Public Schools lowest-paid employee capable of performing the labor in the particular instance, regardless of whether that person is available to perform the labor. Labor cost will be estimated and charged in 15 minute time increments. All partial time increments will be rounded down. No overtime will be charged unless the person making the request provided written approval. If the number of minutes is less than 15, there will be no charge.

Total Category Cost

LABOR COST TO LOCATE	
Hourly wage charged = \$17.00 multiplied by _____ 15 minutes (.25 hour) increments	\$ _____

LABOR COST TO COPY	
Hourly wage charged = \$10.85 multiplied by _____ minutes (.25 hour) increments	\$ _____

EMPLOYEE LABOR COST TO SEPARATE EXEMPT FROM NON-EXEMPT MATERIAL	
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Hourly wage charged = \$17.00 multiplied by _____ 15 minutes (.25 hour) increments	\$ _____
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CONTRACTED LABOR COST TO SEPARATE EXEMPT FROM NONEXEMPT MATERIAL WITH _____ .	\$ _____
Hourly wage charged = \$17.00 multiplied by _____ 15 minutes (.25 hour) increments	\$ _____

COPYING (DUPLICATION OR PRINTING) COST	
Letter ("8 1/2 x 11")single or double sided _____ pages at .10 per page	\$ _____
Legal ("8 1/2 x 14")single or double sided _____ pages at .12 per page	\$ _____
Other sizes, single or double sided _____ pages at .15 per page	\$ _____
Non-physical digital media _____ CD at \$2.00 each _____ Flash Drive at \$10.00 each	\$ _____

MAILING COST	
**In accordance with current fee schedule from www.usps.com	
Postage = \$ _____ per stamp	\$ _____
Postage = \$ _____ per pound	\$ _____
Postage = \$ _____ per package	\$ _____
Postal Delivery Confirmation	\$ _____



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Expedited shipping or insurance if requested	\$ _____
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Affidavit of Indigency Submitted per Section I.D.7.a? Y / N	If yes, subtract \$20.00	\$ _____
Qualified Non-Profit Organization per Section I.D.&.b? Y / N	If yes, subtract \$20.00	\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____
Is the total \$50.00 or more? If yes, a good faith deposit of 50% is required before the request will be processed 50% of the grand total = \$ _____	\$ _____

Balance Due at Pick Up or Prior to Mailing	\$ _____
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Please make checks payable to Bangor Public Schools