

## 722 DATA REQUEST POLICY FOR PUBLIC DATA

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the procedure regarding a public request to inspect or obtain public data and to comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13.

### II. Construction

This policy must be construed as consistent with the MGDPA and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1205. All terms used herein that are defined by the MGDPA must be given the same definition as listed in the MGDPA and Rules Chapter 1205. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to contradict any other school district policy.

### III. Definitions

- A. Government Data – “Government data” means all recorded information that the school district has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.
- B. Inspection – “Inspection” means the visual inspection of paper and similar types of government data. Inspection does not include printing copies by the school district, unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for inspection of the data. For data stored in electronic form and made available in electronic form on a remote access basis to the public by the school district, inspection includes remote access to the data by the public and the ability to print copies of or download the data on the public’s own computer equipment.
- C. Public Data – “Public data” means all government data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, unless classified by statute, temporary classification pursuant to statute, or federal law, as nonpublic or protected nonpublic; or, with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.
- D. Responsible Authority – “Responsible authority means the individual designated by the school board as the individual responsible for the collection, use and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law.
- E. Summary Data – “Summary data” means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable.

#### **IV. Right to Access Data**

All data collected, created, received, maintained or disseminated by the school district, which is classified by state statute or federal law as public, shall be accessible to the public pursuant to the procedures established by the school district in this policy.

#### **V. Making a Data Request**

To inspect data or request copies of public data in the school district's possession, a person should make a written request using the form found in Attachment B with a clear description of the data requested, identify forms in which data is to be provided, and method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address). Attachment B shall be submitted to the appropriate data practices official or designee described in Attachment C. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request. The school district reserves the right to accept verbal requests for data or reduce verbal requests to writing, at its sole discretion.

#### **VI. Processing a Request**

Upon receipt of a written request, the school district will process it within a reasonable time, depending upon the nature and volume of the request. If the requestor does not appear at the time and place established for inspection of the data or the data is not picked up within ten (10) business days after the requestor is notified, the school district will conclude that the data is no longer wanted and will consider the request closed. The school district's response time may be affected by the size and complexity of the particular request, including necessary redactions of the data, and also by the number of requests made within a particular period of time. If the response to a request will take longer than fifteen (15) business days and the requester has provided contact information, the school district may notify the person of the approximate amount of time it will take to process the request.

- If it is unclear what data the individual is requesting, the school district will seek clarification.
- If the school district does not have the requested data, it will notify the individual in writing as soon as reasonably possible.
- If the school district determines that the requested data is classified so as to deny the requesting person access, the school district shall inform the requesting person of the determination either orally at the time of the request, or in writing as soon after that time as possible.
  - Upon the request of any person denied access to data, the responsible authority or designee shall certify in writing that the request has been denied and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of law upon which the denial was based.

### **Public Data Requests**

- If the school district has the requested data, and the data may lawfully be disclosed to the individual, the school district will respond to the request by doing one of the following:
  - Arrange a date, time, and place for the individual to inspect the data without cost to the individual, or
  - Provide the requestor with copies of the data. The requestor may choose to pick up the copies, or the school district will mail or fax copies of the data to the requestor. The school district will provide electronic copies, only if the school district keeps the data in electronic format. Prepayment for costs is required unless other arrangements are approved by the responsible authority. Further information about charges is included on Attachment A.
  - Upon request, the school district will inform the requester as to the meaning of any data disclosed pursuant to this policy.

### **Public Data Requests**

- If the requested data is a request for the school district to prepare summary data, the responsible authority shall prepare summary data from private or confidential data on individuals upon the request of the requestor if the request is in writing and the cost of preparing the summary data is borne by the requesting person. The responsible authority may delegate the power to prepare summary data (1) to the administrative officer responsible for any central repository of summary data; or (2) to a person outside of the entity if the person's purpose is set forth, in writing, and the person agrees not to disclose, and the entity reasonably determines that the access will not compromise private or confidential data on individuals.
  - Provide the person with copies of the data. The person may choose to pick up the copies, or the school district will mail or fax copies of the data to the person. The school district will provide electronic copies, only if the school district keeps the data in electronic format. Prepayment for costs is required unless other arrangements are approved by the responsible authority. Further information about charges is included on Attachment A.

Nothing in this policy or the MGDPA requires the school district to create data; collect new data; or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if the school district does not keep the data in that form or arrangement, in response to a data request.

Nothing in this policy or the MGDPA requires the school district to respond to questions that are not requests for data.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)

***Cross References:***

MSBA Model Policy 722 (Public Data Requests)

***School Board Action:***

Adopted as Policy 996 October 17, 2017

Changed to Policy 772 & Revised November 20, 2018