

## SHIAWASSEE REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

### Michigan Freedom of Information Act Procedures and Guidelines

The Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.231-15.246, provides for public access to certain public records, permits the charging of prescribed fees and deposits, and provides remedies and penalties for non-compliance. 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 FOIA. The School District has established the following Procedures and Guidelines to implement FOIA. 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](http://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: <https://www.sresd.org/about-us/departments/administration/freedom-of-information-act-foia/>. This link or a physical copy of these Procedures and Guidelines will be included in each of the School District's FOIA responses. Paper copies of these Procedures and Guidelines are available upon request by a visitor at the School District's Central Office, located at 1025 N. Shiawassee Street, Corunna, Michigan 48817.

#### I. WRITTEN PUBLIC SUMMARY

##### A. How to Submit Written Requests

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

- FOIA requests can be sent via U.S. Mail to:  
FOIA Coordinator  
1025 N. Shiawassee St.  
Corunna, MI 48817
- FOIA requests sent via email should be sent to: [schulte@sresd.org](mailto:schulte@sresd.org).
- A request must describe the public record in sufficient 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 request must include the requester's (1) complete name (first and last name), (2) mailing address, and (3) either phone number or email address. A request made by an organization must include the contact information of its agent or representative. Any mailing address provided must be in a format that complies with United States Postal Service addressing standards. This information is not

required for a request by an individual who qualifies as indigent under FOIA (i.e., by submitting an affidavit that describes the individual's indigence).

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 requester may stipulate that the School District provide non-exempt public records on non-paper physical media, electronically mailed, or otherwise electronically provided. The School District is not required to produce non-exempt public records on non-paper physical media if the School District lacks the technological capability necessary to provide the requested records 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 requester* and, to safeguard the School District's information technology infrastructure, will not do so.

A person may request a certified copy of a public record.

## **B. Explanation of Written Responses**

The School District will respond to a written request under the FOIA within 5 business days (excluding weekends and legal holidays) after the School District receives the written request, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the requester. 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, e-mail, 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 will not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular request.

If a requester asks for information that is available on the School District's website, the School District will notify the requester 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 requester to inspect non-exempt 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 requester 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 exempted unless that description would reveal the contents of the exempt information and thus defeat the purpose of the exemption.

### **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 requester before providing the requested records. A good-faith deposit will not exceed half of the total estimated fee and will include a detailed itemization of estimated fee amounts. The FOIA Coordinator will provide the requester with a detailed itemization of the allowable fees estimated to be incurred by the School District to process the request as well as notice of the date by which the deposit must be received, which is 48 days after the notice is sent by any means of transmission. 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 requester 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).

If a requester fails to pay the good-faith deposit within 48 days after the date of the deposit notice and if the requester has not appealed the deposit amount, the request will be considered abandoned and the School District will no longer be required to fulfill the request.

### **D. Fee Calculations**

FOIA permits the School District to charge six fee components: (a) labor costs of searching for, locating, and examining public records; (b) labor costs of separating or deleting (redacting) exempt information from non-exempt information; (c) labor costs to duplicate or publish requested public records; (d) actual costs of paper copies (not to exceed 10 cents per sheet for standard 8-1/2 by 11 or 8-1/2 by 14 sheets of paper); (e) actual costs of non-paper physical media (e.g., flash drive, CD) if requested and if the School District has the technological capability to

comply; and (f) actual costs 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 a 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.
2. **Discounts.** Under the following circumstances, a public record search will be made by the School District and a copy of a non-exempt public record will be furnished without 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 or 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 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 106-402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99-319, or their successors, submits a request that meets all of 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 designation 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 offices 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.

2. **Challenge to Fee.** If the School District requires a fee that requester believes exceeds the amount permitted under the FOIA or 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 School District's offices is located. See Section II.E of these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines for a more detailed explanation of the procedures and timelines for a fee appeal.

## II. 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 purposes of the FOIA to mean "an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm, organization, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity." A request made by a "person," other than an individual (e.g., a corporation, firm, governmental entity) must include the requester's complete name (first and last name), mailing address, and either the phone number or email address of the "person's" agent who is an individual. Any mailing address provided must comply with United States Postal Service addressing standards.
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 suggests that requesters use the sample Request Form appended as Attachment A.
3. FOIA requests must be in writing. If, however, a person makes an oral request for information that is available on the School District's website, and if the employee to whom 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 requests to inspect, copy, or receive copies of public records. FOIA requests should be sent to the School District's FOIA Coordinator.
  - FOIA requests can be sent via U.S. Mail to:  
FOIA Coordinator

1025 N. Shiawassee St.  
Corunna, MI 48817

- FOIA requests sent via email should be sent to: [schulte@sresd.org](mailto:schulte@sresd.org).

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 requester 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 will 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 requested 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 will, upon written request, furnish a certified copy of a public record to the requester.

## **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 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 will not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular request.
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 requester 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 FOIA, MCL 15.243, which is available on the Michigan Legislature's website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://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 date 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 e-mail, fax, or other electronic means is received for purposes of the FOIA 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 1 day after the date it is discovered in the spam or junk mail folder. The FOIA Coordinator will 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 will review the FOIA Coordinator's spam or junk mail folder at least once 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 requester to inspect non-exempt 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.
  6. 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 records or parts of records will not be disclosed.

The School District will provide copies of, or an opportunity to inspect, the non-exempt 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 certificate that one or more of the public records does not exist under the name given by the requester 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 a 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. 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 District's website, the School District will notify the requester in its response where the records may be found. If a requester 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 material.
11. In lieu of paper copies, the requester may stipulate that the School District provide non-exempt 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 records 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 requester and, to safeguard the School District's information technology infrastructure, will not do so.

### **C. Deposit Requirements**

1. 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 \$50, the School District may require a good-faith deposit from the requester before providing the requested records. A good-faith deposit will not exceed



half of the total estimated fee and will include a detailed itemization of estimated fee amounts. The FOIA Coordinator will provide the requester with a detailed itemization of allowable fees estimated to be incurred by the School District to process the request. The School District will include with its request for good-faith deposit a best efforts estimate of the time frame within which the School District will provide the requested public records. The timeframe 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 requester fails to pay the good-faith deposit within 48 days of the date of notice and if the requester has not filed an appeal of the deposit amount, the request will be considered abandoned by the requester and the School District is no longer required to fulfill the request.
3. If a requester 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 will not be charged for the cost to search, examine, review, and delete/separate/redact exempt from non-exempt information unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to the School District. In determining whether such costs are “unreasonably 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 FOIA requests.
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 requester, 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 costs for separating and deleting exempt information from non-exempt 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 requester, 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 non-exempt information may vary depending upon the nature of the records sought and the corresponding qualifications or authorizations required to separate and redact exempt information from non-exempt information. If the School District FOIA Coordinator determines on a case-by-case basis that no employee of the School District is capable of separating and deleting exempt from nonexempt material, the School District may engage a contracted services provider and charge labor costs. Such labor costs will be calculated in 15-minute increments (rounded down) and the hourly rate will not exceed 6 times the state minimum wage. All charges will be noted on the fee itemization form.
- c. *Costs for non-paper physical media.* A requester may stipulate that records be produced on non-paper 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 non-paper physical media, the School District may charge the actual and most reasonably economical cost of the requested non-paper physical media and the cost of non-paper physical media will 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 8-1/2 by 11-inch sheets of paper or 8-1/2 by 14-inch sheets of paper. The actual cost of duplication will be charged for non-standard-sized sheets of paper and may exceed 10 cents per sheet. The School District will utilize the most economical means available for making copies of public records, including using double-sided printing, if cost saving and available.
- e. *Actual labor costs for duplication or 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 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 costs of the least expensive form of postal delivery. If a requester asks for expedited mailing, and if the School District agrees to provide expedited mailing, the



7. **Discounts.** Under the following circumstances, a public record search will be made by the School District and a copy of a non-exempt public record will be furnished without charge for the first \$20 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 or 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 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 106-402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99-319, or their successors, submits a request that meets all of 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 designation by the state, if requested by the School District.

## **E. Appeals**

A requester may appeal any denial of records or any fee charged for public records.

1. **Challenge to Record Denial.** If the School District denies a request for records, the requester may either:
  - Appeal to the School District's Board of Education; or
  - Commence an action in the circuit court in Shiawassee County within 180 days of the denial.
- a. If the requester 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 denial 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 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; or
      - 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 the written appeal, the requester may seek judicial review by commencing a civil action in circuit court.
  - b. A requester 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 requester. 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 will also require that the School District pay the requester’s reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and disbursements. If the requester or the School District *prevails in part*, the court may, in its discretion, award the School District all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and disbursements.
2. **Challenge to Fee.** If the School District requires a fee (defined to include a deposit) that requester believes exceeds the amount permitted under the FOIA or these publicly 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 attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements.
- 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 requester.

#### **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 Certificate of Non-Existence of Public Record
3. Standard Form for Detailed Itemization of Fee Amounts

**ATTACHMENT A  
SAMPLE FOIA REQUEST FORM**

[DATE]

[FOIA COORDINATOR NAME]  
[FOIA COORDINATOR ADDRESS]

**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 NON-PAPER PHYSICAL MEDIUM, SUCH AS 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 furnished 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 the fee because of indigence; (B) I am not making this request in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment or other remuneration; and (C) I have not previously received discounted copies of public records from the School District twice during this same calendar year.

**OPTIONAL:** Please furnished 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 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 106-402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99-319, or their successors, or on behalf of its clients; (B) this request 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(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, issued, or disseminated by SCHOOL DISTRICT *on a regular basis:* [INSERT SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION].

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
[REQUESTER NAME]  
[REQUESTER ADDRESS]  
[REQUESTER EMAIL]  
[REQUESTER PHONE NUMBER]

**ATTACHMENT B  
SAMPLE CERTIFICATE OF NON-EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC RECORD**

[DATE]

[REQUESTER'S NAME]  
REQUESTER'S ADDRESS]

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_**

Dear Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_:

The [NAME OF PUBLIC BODY] 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 RECEIPT DATE]. You 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 name(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 the 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 will award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or 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 award will 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 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 will award, in addition to any actual or 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 will not be assessed against an individual, but will be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

***A full explanation of your right to seek either appeal or 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.

Very truly yours,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

[INSERT NAME]  
FOIA Coordinator

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Shiawassee Regional Education Service District**

**Detailed Itemization Fee Form**

Requester's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date on Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ -or- Actual Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

If estimated fee is over \$50, the District shall charge a good faith deposit of 50% of the estimated fee. Failure to pay the deposit within 48 calendar days of the District's notice constitutes abandonment, and the District is no longer required to fulfill the request.

Estimated date FOIA response will be available: \_\_\_\_\_

**Labor Costs<sup>ii</sup>**

**Searching/Locating/Examining Records**

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hours}^{\text{iii}} \times \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hourly Wage} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Fringe Benefit}^{\text{iv}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

**Separating and Deleting Exempt from Non-Exempt Information/Records**

*Employee*

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hours}^{\text{v}} \times \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hourly Wage} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Fringe Benefit} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

*Contracted Labor (if any)*

Name of person or firm engaged \_\_\_\_\_

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hours} \times \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hourly Wage}^{\text{vi}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

**Duplicating or Publishing Records**

$$\underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hours}^{\text{vii}} \times \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Hourly Wage} + \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ Fringe Benefit} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

**Non-Paper Physical Media**

USB Flash Drives, CDs, DVDs, Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Delivery Charges**

Actual Cost of Mailing<sup>viii</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Copying Costs for Paper Copies<sup>ix</sup>**

Letter (8 1/2" x 11") Cost per page \$0. \_\_\_\_\_ x # of sheets \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Legal (8 1/2" x 14") Cost per page \$0. \_\_\_\_\_ x # of sheets \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

