

Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information

The Board is a public servant, and its meetings and records shall be matters of public information, subject to such restrictions as are set by federal law or regulation, by state statute or by pertinent court rulings.

The official minutes of the Board, its written policies and its financial records shall be open for inspection at the office of the executive director by any citizen desiring to examine them during hours when the office of the executive director is open. However, no records shall be released for inspection by the public or any unauthorized persons—either by the executive director or any other person designated as custodian for BOCES records—if such disclosure would be contrary to the public interest as described in state law or otherwise prohibited by law. The BOCES's financial information shall be posted online in accordance with the Public-School Financial Transparency Act.

In responding to a request for the BOCES's public records, the BOCES may charge a fee for staff time spent in excess of one hour for the following: researching and retrieving the requested records; conducting searches for requested records; reviewing records to determine whether they are responsive to the request; and identifying and separating those records that are not public and/or are privileged or confidential. Such fee shall be \$33.58 per hour, which may be increased from time to time as permitted by applicable state law. The BOCES may also charge other reasonable fees in responding to a request for the BOCES's public records, in accordance with the accompanying regulation.

(Adopted May 13, 2020)