

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)



Pana Community Unit School District No. 8
14 E Main St.
PO Box 377
Pana, IL 62557
Telephone: 217-562-1500
Fax: 217-562-1501
Website: panaschools.com

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Pana Community Unit School District #8 is a school district located in Pana, IL. The district is organized under the laws of the State of Illinois for the purpose of providing and operating the three schools within its geographical boundaries. The district's primary purpose is the education of children in the district from kindergarten through high school. The district's mission is "Working in partnership, PCUSD #8, students, parents, and community members, will each do his/her part to ensure learning and success."

The district operates the following schools/offices:

- **Pana Elementary School**
Address: 209 W 9th St. Telephone: 217-562-1510
Pana, IL 62557 Fax: 217-562-9259

- **Pana Jr. High School**
Address: 203 E 8th St. Telephone: 217-562-6500
Pana, IL 62557 Fax: 217-562-6712

- **Pana High School**
Address: 201 W 8th St. Telephone: 217-562-6600
Pana, IL 62557 Fax: 217-562-6714

- **Unit Office**
Address: 14 E Main St. Telephone: 217-562-1500
Pana, IL 62557 Fax: 217-562-1501

Board of Education

The district is governed by a seven-member Board of Education. The present members of Pana Community Unit School District #8 Board of Education are:

1. Kyle Anderson - President
2. Craig Berner
3. Mark Beyers - Vice President
4. Nina Casner
5. Anne Dorn - Secretary
6. April Hadowsky
7. James Moon

Budget Data

The FY26 Budget figures are as follows:

FUND	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES
Education	\$ 15,241,619.00	\$ 16,641,619.00
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 993,336.00	\$ 1,616,878.00
Debt Services	\$ 973,808.00	\$ 1,329,726.00
Transportation	\$ 987,296.00	\$ 990,845.00
Municipal Retirement	\$ 642,000.00	\$ 645,934.00
Capitol Projects	\$ 773,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00
Working Cash	\$ 129,833.00	-
Tort	\$ 880,599.00	\$ 781,399.00
Fire Prevention	\$ 86,333.00	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 20,707,824.00	\$ 23,836,401.00

The District currently employs approximately 175 full-time and 32 part-time employees.

Procedures to Request or Copy Documents

Pana Community Unit School District #8 shall make available, for inspection, and/or copying, all public records, except as exempted under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

All requests are to be submitted, in writing, to:

<p>Kylie Dooley - FOIA Officer kylie.dooley@panaschools.com</p> <p>Pana CUSD #8 14 E Main St. PO Box 377 Pana, IL 62557</p>

Additional information on FOIA requests is found in Board Policy 2:250 Access to District Public Records.

School Board

Access to District Public Records

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures. The Superintendent or designee shall: (1) provide the Board with sufficient information and data to permit the Board to monitor the District's compliance with FOIA and this policy, and (2) report any FOIA requests during the Board's regular meetings along with the status of the District's response.

Freedom of Information Officer

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's Freedom of Information Officer and assumes all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy. The Superintendent may delegate these duties and powers to one or more designees, but the delegation shall not relieve the Superintendent of the responsibility for the action that was delegated.

Definition

The District's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary material pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the School District.

Requesting Records

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or email directed to the District's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct District employees to immediately forward any request for inspection and copying of a public record to the District's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

Responding to Requests

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

1. The requested material does not exist;
2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of Information Act; or
3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome.

Within five business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to five business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the

extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

The time periods are extended for responding to requests for records made for a *commercial purpose*, requests by a *recurrent requester*, or *voluminous requests*, as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA. The time periods for responding to those requests are governed by Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.6 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the request.

Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any and all applicable fees. The Freedom of Information Officer shall establish a fee schedule that complies with FOIA and this policy and is subject to the Board's review. The fee schedule shall include copying fees and all other fees to the maximum extent they are permitted by FOIA, including without limitation, search and review fees for responding to a request for a *commercial purpose* and fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with responding to a *voluminous request*.

Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, shall be reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. In no case shall the copying fees exceed the maximum fees permitted by FOIA. If the District's actual copying costs are equal to or greater than the maximum fees permitted by FOIA, the Freedom of Information Officer is authorized to use FOIA's maximum fees as the District's fees. No copying fees shall be charged for: (1) the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies, or (2) electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium, except if the response is to a *voluminous request*, as defined in FOIA.

A fee reduction is available if the request qualifies under Section 6 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer shall set the amount of the reduction taking into consideration the amount of material requested and the cost of copying it.

Provision of Copies and Access to Records

A public record that is the subject of an approved access request will be available for inspection or copying at the District's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the District's website including, but not limited to, the process for requesting a public record. The Freedom of Information Officer shall direct a requester to the District's website if a requested record is available there. If the requester is unable to reasonably access the record online, he or she may resubmit the request for the record, stating his or her inability to reasonably access the record online, and the District shall make the requested record available for inspection and copying as otherwise provided in this policy.

Preserving Public Records

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its

retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.
820 ILCS 40/11.
820 ILCS 130/5.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 5:150 (Personnel Records),
7:340 (Student Records)