Chapter 131-276 WAC
PUBLIC RECORDS

WAC 131-276-010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter shall be to ensure compliance by the state board for community and technical colleges with the provisions of chapter 1, Laws of 1973 (Initiative 276), Disclosure—Campaign finances—Lobbying—Records; and in particular with sections 25-32 of that act, dealing with public records.

WAC 131-276-020 Definitions. (1) Public records. "Public record" includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of governmental or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics.

(2) Writing. "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostating, photographing, and every other means of recording any form of communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds; or symbols, or combination thereof, and all papers, maps, magnetic or paper tapes, photographic films and prints, magnetic or punched cards, discs, drums and other documents.

(3) State board for community and technical colleges. The state board for community and technical colleges is an agency organized by statute pursuant to RCW 28B.50.050. The state board for community college education shall hereafter be referred to as the "board." Where appropriate, the term board also refers to the staff and employees of the board.

WAC 131-276-030 Description of organization of the state board for community and technical colleges. The state board for community and technical colleges is a state agency organized under RCW 28B.50.050. The administrative office of the board and its staff are located at 1300 Quince Street S.E., Olympia, Washington.

WAC 131-276-040 Operations and procedures. The board shall be to ensure compliance by the staff with the public records disclosure rules of chapter 31, chapter 1, Laws of 1973 and WAC 131-276-100.

WAC 131-276-050 Public records officer. All public records of the board, as defined in WAC 131-276-020 are deemed to be available for public inspection and copying pursuant to these rules, except as otherwise provided by section 31, chapter 1, Laws of 1973 and WAC 131-276-100.

WAC 131-276-060 Office hours. Public records shall be available for inspection and copying during the customary office hours of the board. For the purposes of this chapter, the customary office hours shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

WAC 131-276-070 Requests for public records. In accordance with requirements of chapter 1, Laws of 1973 that
agencies prevent unreasonable invasions of privacy, protect public records from damage or disorganization, and prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency. Public records may be inspected or copied or copies of such records may be obtained, by members of the public, upon compliance with the following procedures:

(1) A request shall be made in writing upon a form prescribed by the board which shall be available at its administrative office. The form shall be presented to the public records officer; or to any member of the board's staff, if the public records officer is not available, at the administrative office of the board during customary office hours. The request shall include the following information:
(a) The name of the person requesting the record;
(b) The time of day and calendar date on which the request was made;
(c) The nature of the request;
(d) If the matter requested is referenced within the current index maintained by the records officer, a reference to the requested record as it is described in such current index;
(e) If the requested matter is not identifiable by reference to the board's current index, an appropriate description of the record requested.

(2) In all cases in which a member of the public is making a request, it shall be the obligation of the public records officer or staff member to whom the request is made, to assist the member of the public in appropriately identifying the public record requested.

WAC 131-276-090 Copying. No fee shall be charged for the inspection of public records. The board shall charge a fee of 10¢ per page of copy for providing copies of public records and for use of the board's copy equipment. This charge is the amount necessary to reimburse the board for its records and for use of the board's copy equipment. This fee of 10¢ per page of copy for providing copies of public records at a rate sufficient to cover any additional use of any equipment not readily available, the board will reserve the right to determine that a public record requested.

(1) Any person who objects to the denial of a request for a public record may petition for prompt review of such decision by tendering a written request for review. The written request shall specifically refer to the written statement by the public records officer or other staff member which constituted or accompanied the denial.

(2) Immediately after receiving a written request for review of a decision denying a public record, the public records officer or other staff member denying the request shall refer it to the director of the board. The director or his designee shall immediately consider the matter and either affirm or reverse such denial or consult with the attorney general to review the denial. In any case, the request shall be returned with a final decision, within two business days following the original denial.

(3) Administrative remedies shall not be considered exhausted until the board has returned the petition with a decision or until the close of the second business day following denial of inspection, whichever occurs first.

WAC 131-276-120 Protection of public records. Requests for public records shall be made in the board offices, WEA Building, 319 East 7th Avenue, Olympia, Washington. Public records and a facility for their inspection will be provided by the public records officer. Such records shall not be removed from the place designated for their inspection. Copies shall be made at the board offices. If copying facilities are not available at the board office, the board will arrange to have copies made commercially according to the provisions of WAC 131-276-090.

WAC 131-276-130 Records index. (1) The board reserves the right to determine that a public record requested in accordance with the procedures outlined in WAC 131-276-080 is exempt under the provisions of section 31, chapter 1, Laws of 1973.

(2) In addition, pursuant to section 26, chapter 1, Laws of 1973, the board reserves the right to delete identifying details when it makes available or publishes any public record, in any cases when there is reason to believe that disclosure of such details would be an invasion of personal privacy protected by chapter 1, Laws of 1973. The public records officer will fully justify such deletion in writing.

(3) All denials of requests for public records must be accompanied by a written statement specifying the reason for the denial, including a statement of the specific exemption authorizing the withholding of the record and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.

[Ch. 131-276 WAC p. 2]
(2) **Availability.** The current index promulgated by the board shall be available to all persons under the same rules and on the same conditions as are applied to public records available for inspection.

[Order 18, § 131-276-130, filed 7/2/73.]

**WAC 131-276-140 Adoption of form.** The district hereby adopts for use by all persons requesting inspection and/or copying or copies of its records, the form attached hereto as Appendix A, entitled "Request for public record."

[Order 18, § 131-276-140, filed 7/2/73.]

**WAC 131-276-990 Appendix A—Request for public record to state board for community and technical colleges.**

**APPENDIX "A"**

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORD TO STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES**

(a)  
Signature  
Signature (Please Print)

Name of Organization, if Applicable

Mailing Address of Applicant  
Phone Number

(b)  
Date Request Made at State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Time of Day Request Made

(c)  
Nature of request

(d)  
Identification Reference on Current Index  
Please Describe

(e)  
Description of Record, or Matter, Requested if not Identifiable by Reference to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Index

Request: Approved  
By  
Date  
Public Records Officer

Denied Date  
Reasons for Denial:

Referred to  
Date

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28.50 [28B.50] RCW. WSR 98-23-05, § 131-276-990, filed 11/13/98, effective 12/14/98; Order 18, Appendix A (codified as WAC 131-276-990), filed 7/2/73.]