

## **1740 Access To Public Records Policy**

**Approved: October 21, 2020, March 1, 2023, February 28, 2024**

The Board of Directors of Altus Schools Southern California , a nonprofit public benefit corporation, hereby adopts the Board Policy Access to Public Records to apply to Audeo Charter School II, Audeo Charter School III, Audeo Valley Charter School, Altus Schools East County , Mirus Secondary School, and Altus Schools South Bay all hereafter collectively referred to as (“Charter School”). Charter School adopts this policy regarding public records requests pursuant to the Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250) to ensure compliance. This policy may be updated from time to time as required, to be in compliance with state law, regulation, or administrative directive.

Requests for public records shall be made to the office of the Chief of Staff and Compliance Officer (“COSCO”). The COSCO or designee may then determine the most appropriate employee of the Charter School to assist in assembling any public records for production.

Any person may request a copy of any public record open to the public and not exempt from disclosure. Public access shall not be given to records listed as exempt from public disclosure in the California Public Records Act or other applicable statutes. While a request need not be in writing, if the request is verbal, the requestor will be asked to reduce the request to writing so there is a written record of the records being requested. If the requestor chooses not to reduce the request to writing, the COSCO or designee shall reduce the request to writing and confirm the request with the requestor. The request for public records must clearly identify the records requested, along with the name and mailing address of the requestor.

Provisions of the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 *et seq.*) shall not be construed so as to delay access for purposes of inspecting or receiving copies of records open to the public. Any notification denying a request for public records shall state the name and title of each person responsible for the denial.

Charter School may charge for copies of public records or other materials requested by individuals or groups. The charge, based on the direct cost of duplication, has been set by the Board of Directors at .10 cents per page. The direct cost of duplication includes the pro rata expense of the copying equipment used and the pro rata expense in terms of staff time required to produce the copy. It does **not** include the cost of locating, retrieving, or inspecting records.

Requests to waive associated fees related to the direct cost of duplication shall be submitted to the COSCO’s Office.

In response to a request for public records sent or received on an employee’s personal devices or accounts, Charter School shall disclose all public records that can be located with reasonable effort and that are otherwise subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. Charter School’s search for such public records shall be reasonably calculated to locate responsive documents. To fulfill such a request for public records, employees of the Charter

School may be asked to search for and disclose all responsive disclosable public records maintained on the employee's personal devices or accounts.

Within ten (10) days of receiving any request for a copy of records, the COSCO or designee shall determine whether the request seeks copies of disclosable public records in the possession of the Charter School, shall promptly inform the person making the request of the Charter School's intent to comply with the request, and shall indicate the date that the disclosable public records shall be made available.

In unusual circumstances, the COSCO may extend the 10-day time period for an additional 14 days by providing written notice to the requestor and setting forth the reasons for the extension and the date on which a determination is expected to be made. Unusual circumstances include, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to properly process the request, the following:

1. The need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other locations that are separate from the office processing the request;
2. The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records that are demanded in a single request;
3. The need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request, or among two or more components of the Charter School having substantial subject matter interest therein;
4. The need to compile data, to write programming language or a computer program, or to construct a computer report to extract data.

If an inspection is requested, any person shall have reasonable access, during normal business hours, to the public records of the Charter School within the requirements of state law. However, if records are not readily available, or if portions of the records to be inspected must be redacted to protect exempt material, then Charter School must be given a reasonable period of time to perform these functions prior to inspection. Such records shall be examined in the presence of the staff member regularly responsible for their maintenance.