



PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS OF AMBER CHARTER SCHOOLS

Section 1: Purpose and scope

1. The people's right to know the process of government decision-making and the documents and statistics leading to determinations is basic to our society. Access to such information should not be thwarted by shrouding it with the cloak of secrecy or confidentiality.
2. These regulations provide information concerning the procedures by which records may be obtained.
3. Personnel shall furnish to the public the information and records required by the Freedom of Information Law, as well as records otherwise available by law.
4. Any conflicts among laws governing public access to records shall be construed in favor of the widest possible availability of public records.

Section 2: Designation of Records Access Officer

1. The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring compliance with the regulations herein, and designates the following person(s) as records access officer(s):

Kirsys Gomez & Veronica Almedina
Co-Chief Executive Officers
Amber Charter Schools
3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

2. The records access officer is responsible for ensuring appropriate agency response to public requests for access to records. The designation of a records access officer shall not be construed to prohibit officials who have in the past been authorized to make records or information available to the public from continuing to do so.

The records access officer shall ensure that agency personnel:

- Maintain an up-to-date subject matter list.
- Assist persons seeking records to identify the records sought, if necessary, and when appropriate, indicate the manner in which the records are filed, retrieved, or generated to assist persons in reasonably describing records.
- Contact persons seeking records when a request is voluminous or when locating the records involves substantial effort, so that personnel may ascertain the nature of records of primary interest and attempt to reasonably reduce the volume of records requested.
- Upon locating the records, take one of the following actions:
 - Make records available for inspection; or,

- Deny access to the records in whole or in part and explain in writing the reasons therefore.
- Upon request for copies of records:
 - Make a copy available upon payment or offer to pay established fees, if any, in accordance with Section 8; or,
 - Permit the requester to copy those records.
- Upon request, certify that a record is a true copy; and
- Upon failure to locate records, certify that:
 - Amber Charter Schools is not the custodian of such records, or
 - The records of which Amber Charter Schools is a custodian cannot be found after a diligent search.

Section 3: Location

Records shall be available for public inspection and copying at

Amber Charter School East Harlem: 220 East 106th Street, New York, NY 10029

Amber Charter School Kingsbridge (Grades K-4): 3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

Amber Charter School Kingsbridge (Grades 5 -8): 532 West 215th Street, New York, NY 10034

Amber Charter School Inwood: 532 West 215th Street, New York, NY 10034

Section 4: Hours for public inspection

Requests for public access to records shall be accepted, and records will be produced during all regular school hours. These are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Section 5: Requests for public access to records

1. A written request may be required, but oral requests may be accepted when records are readily available.
2. If records are maintained on the Internet, the requester shall be informed that the records are accessible via the Internet and in printed form either on paper or other information storage medium.
3. A response shall be given within five business days of receipt of a request by:
 - a. informing a person requesting records that the request or portion of the request does not reasonably describe the records sought, including direction, to the extent possible, that would enable that person to request records reasonably described;
 - b. granting or denying access to records in whole or in part;
 - c. acknowledging the receipt of a request in writing, including an approximate date when the request will be granted or denied in whole or in part, which shall be reasonable under the circumstances of the request and shall not be more than twenty business days after the date of the acknowledgment, or if it is known that circumstances prevent disclosure within twenty business days from the date of such acknowledgment, providing a statement in writing indicating the reason for inability to grant the request within that time and a date certain, within a reasonable period under the circumstances of the request, when the request will be granted in whole or in part; or
 - d. if the receipt of the request was acknowledged in writing and included an approximate date when the request would be granted in whole or in part within twenty business days of such acknowledgment, but circumstances prevent

disclosure within that time, providing a statement in writing within twenty business days of such acknowledgment specifying the reason for the inability to do so and a date certain, within a reasonable period under the circumstances of the request, when the request will be granted in whole or in part.

4. In determining a reasonable time for granting or denying a request under the circumstances of a request, personnel shall consider the volume of a request, the ease or difficulty in locating, retrieving, or generating records, the complexity of the request, the need to review records to determine the extent to which they must be disclosed, the number of requests received by the agency, and similar factors that bear on the ability to grant access to records promptly and within a reasonable time.
5. A failure to comply with the time limitations described herein shall constitute a denial of a request that may be appealed. Such failure shall include situations in which an officer or employee:
 - a. fails to grant access to the records sought, deny access in writing, or acknowledge the receipt of a request within five business days of the receipt of a request;
 - b. acknowledges the receipt of a request within five business days but fails to furnish an approximate date when the request will be granted or denied in whole or in part;
 - c. furnishes an acknowledgment of the receipt of a request within five business days with an approximate date for granting or denying access in whole or in part that is unreasonable under the circumstances of the request;
 - d. fails to respond to a request within a reasonable time after the approximate date given or within twenty business days after the date of the acknowledgment of the receipt of a request;
 - e. determines to grant a request in whole or in part within twenty business days of the acknowledgment of the receipt of a request, but fails to do so, unless the agency provides the reason for its inability to do so in writing and a date certain within which the request will be granted in whole or in part.
 - f. does not grant a request in whole or in part within twenty business days of the acknowledgment of the receipt of a request and fails to provide the reason in writing explaining the inability to do so and a date certain by which the request will be granted in whole or in part; or
 - g. responds to a request, stating that more than twenty business days is needed to grant or deny the request in whole or in part and provides a date within which that will be accomplished, but such a date is unreasonable under the circumstances of the request.

Section 6: Subject matter list

1. The records access officer shall maintain a reasonably detailed current list by subject matter of all records in its possession, whether or not records are available under subdivision two of Section eighty-seven of the Public Officers Law.
2. The subject matter list shall be sufficiently detailed to permit identification of the category of the record sought.
3. The subject matter list shall be updated annually. The most recent update shall appear on the first page of the subject matter list.

Section 7: Denial of access to records

1. Denial of access to records shall be in writing stating the reason therefor and advising the requester of the right to appeal to the individual or body established to determine appeals, [who or which] shall be identified by name, title, business address, and business phone number.
2. If requested records are not provided promptly, as required in Section 5 of these regulations, such failure shall also be deemed a denial of access.
3. The following person or persons or bodies shall determine appeals regarding the denial of access to records under the Freedom of Information Law:

John Gutierrez
Board Chair
Amber Charter Schools
3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
jgutierrez@ambercharter.org

4. Any person denied access to records may appeal within thirty days of a denial.
5. The time for deciding an appeal by the individual or body designated to determine appeals shall commence upon receipt of a written appeal identifying:
 - a. the date and location of requests for records;
 - b. a description, to the extent possible, of the records that were denied; and
 - c. the name and return address of the person denied access.
6. A failure to determine an appeal within ten business days of its receipt by granting access to the records sought or fully explaining the reasons for further denial in writing shall constitute a denial of the appeal.
7. The person or body designated to determine appeals shall transmit to the [Committee on Open Government](#) copies of all appeals upon receipt of appeals. Such copies shall be addressed to:

[Committee on Open Government](#)
Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 650
Albany, NY 12231

8. The Board of Trustees shall inform the appellant and the Committee on Open Government of its determination in writing within ten business days of receipt of an appeal. The determination shall be transmitted to the Committee on Open Government in the same manner as set forth in subdivision (f) of this section.

Section 8: Fees

1. There shall be no fee charged for:
 - a. Inspection of records;
 - b. Search for records; or
 - c. Any certification pursuant to this part.
2. Copies may be provided without charging a fee.
3. Fees for copies may be charged, provided that:

- a. The fee for copying records shall not exceed 25 cents per page for photocopies not exceeding 9 by 14 inches.
- b. The fee for copies shall not exceed the actual reproduction cost, which is the average unit cost for copying a record, excluding fixed school costs such as operator salaries.

Section 9: Public notice

A notice containing the title or name and business address of the records access officers and appeals person or body and the location where records can be seen or copies shall be posted in the operations office of each school location.

Section 10 Severability

If any provision of these regulations or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is adjudged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall not affect or impair the validity of the other provisions of these regulations or the application thereof to other persons and circumstances.

AMBER CHARTER SCHOOL PUBLIC FOIL NOTICE

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO SEE PUBLIC RECORD

The amended Freedom of Information Law, which took effect on January 1, 1978, gives you the right of access to many public records. AMBER CHARTER SCHOOLS have adopted regulations governing when, where, and how you can see public records. The regulations can be seen in all places where records are kept. According to these regulations, records can be seen and copied at:

Amber Charter School East Harlem: 220 East 106th Street, New York, NY 10029

Amber Charter School Kingsbridge (Grades K-4): 3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

Amber Charter School Kingsbridge (Grades 5 -8): 532 West 215th Street, New York, NY 10034

Amber Charter School Inwood: 532 West 215th Street, New York, NY 10034

The following officials will help you to exercise your right to access:

- Agency officials who have in the past been authorized to make records available
- Records Access Officer(s)

Kirsys Gomez & Veronica Almedina
Co-Chief Executive Officers
Amber Charter Schools
3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
co-ceos@ambercharter.org

If you are denied access to a record, you may appeal to the following person(s) or body:

John Gutierrez
Board Chair
Amber Charter Schools
3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
jgutierrez@ambercharter.org