

Data/Records Retention

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for a records retention system that is in compliance with RSA 189:29-a and Department of Education regulations, and also addresses retention/destruction of all other records which are not subject to specific statutes or regulations. The procedures should ensure that all pertinent records are stored safely and are stored for such durations as are required by law. The Superintendent shall develop procedures necessary to protect individual rights and preserve confidential information.

This policy shall apply to all District records, irrespective of the specific medium of the record, i.e., paper, electronic, digital, cloud, etc.

A. Special Education Records

1. Upon a student's graduation from high school, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may request in writing that the District destroy the student's special education records, including any final individualized education program.
2. The parent(s)/guardian(s) or adult student may, at any time prior to the student's twenty-sixth birthday, request, in writing, that the records be retained until the student's thirtieth birthday.
3. Absent any request by a student's parents to destroy the records prior to the twenty-sixth birthday, or to retain such records until the student's thirtieth birthday, the District shall destroy a student's records and final individualized education program within a reasonable time after the student's twenty-sixth birthday, provided that all such records be destroyed by the student's thirtieth birthday.
4. A permanent record of a student's name, address, and phone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation. 34 CFR 300.624.
5. The District shall provide parents/guardians, or where applicable, the adult student, with a written notice of the District's document destruction policies upon the student's graduation with a regular high school diploma or at the transfer of rights, whichever occurs first.
6. The District shall provide public notice of its document destruction policy at least annually.

B. Litigation Hold

On receipt of notice from legal counsel representing the District in that a litigation hold is required, the routine destruction of governmental records, including paper and electronic or digital records, which are or may be subject to the litigation hold shall cease. The destruction of records subject to a litigation hold shall not resume until the District has received a written directive from legal counsel authorizing resumption of the routine destruction of those records in accordance with the retention requirements of this policy and the associated procedures.

C. Right-to-Know Request Hold

On receipt of a Right-to-Know law request to inspect or copy governmental records, the Superintendent shall cease any destruction of governmental records which are or may be the subject of the request. The records shall be retained regardless of whether they are subject to disclosure under RSA Chapter 91-A, the Right-to-Know law. If a request for inspection is denied on the grounds that the information is exempt under this chapter, the requested material shall be preserved for no less than ninety (90) days and until any lawsuit pursuant to RSA 91-A:7-8 has been finally resolved, all appeal periods have expired, and a written directive from legal counsel representing the District authorizing destruction of the records has been received.

D. Electronic Records.

For legal purposes, electronic records and communications are no different than paper documents. The state law on preservation of electronic records, RSA 33-A:5-a Electronic Records, does not explicitly apply to school districts, but does provide guidance: "Electronic records as defined in RSA 5:29, VI and designated on the disposition schedule under RSA 33-A:3-a to be retained for more than 10 years shall be transferred to paper or microfilm, or stored in portable document format/archival (PDF/A) on a medium from which it is readily retrievable. Electronic records designated on the disposition schedule to be retained for less than 10 years may be retained solely electronically if so approved by [Superintendent as the party] responsible for the records. The Superintendent is responsible for assuring the accessibility of the records for the mandated period.

E. Retention Period Schedule.

The following schedule shall apply to all records obtained, created or maintained by the District, irrespective of the specific medium of the record, i.e., paper, electronic, digital, cloud, etc.

Note regarding records relating to federal funds (items marked below with "*"): Before any records related to federal funds are destroyed, however, the requirements of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) 20 U.S.C. 1232f shall be observed. Namely, that statute requires that district "shall keep records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by the recipient of [federal] funds, the total cost of the activity for which the funds are used, the share of that cost provided from other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective financial or programmatic audit for three years after the completion of the activity for which the funds are used." Therefore, to the extent that the below schedule, or other authorities, suggest that a purchase order, with accompanying documentation, may need to be retained only until the records are audited, plus 1 year, if the purchase is in part or in whole with federal funds the record must be retained for three years after the completion of the activity for which the funds are used, a much longer period of time.

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A, Right to Know Law

RSA 189:29-a, Records Retention and Disposition

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(4), Records Retention

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(h), Records Retention

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 1119.01, Confidentiality Requirements

20 U.S.C. 1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Business Records		
Accident Reports:		
▪ Employee		Term of employment, plus 6 years
▪ Student		Age of majority, plus 6 years
Accounts Receivable	RSA 33-A:3-a	Until audited, plus 1 year
Annual Audit	RSA 33-A:3-a (10 years)	Permanent
Annual Report (District), Warrants, Annual Meeting Minutes, Budgets (District & SAU)	RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Application for Federal Grants	20 U.S.C. 1232f., (three years after the completion of the activity for which the funds are used) other authorities may apply	5 years
Architectural Plans		Permanent
Asbestos Removal		Permanent
Bank Deposit Slips	RSA 33-A:3-a	6 years
Bonds and continuation certificates	RSA 33-A:3-a (expiration plus 2 years)	Permanent
Budget Worksheets		End of budget year, plus 1 year
Cash receipts, disbursement records, checks	RSA 33-A:3-a	Until Audited and at least 6 years after last entry
Child Labor Permits		1 year
Work-study	29 C.F.R. §570.37	3 years from date of enrollment
Construction Contracts, Capital projects, fixed assets that require accountability after acquired*	RSA 33-A:3-a (Life of project/asset)	Life of contract, building, asset plus 20 years
Engineering Surveys		Permanent
Unsuccessful bids	RSA 33-A:3-a (Completion of project, plus one year)	Life of contract plus 3 years
Certified Educator		Permanent
COBRA Notices	42 U.S.C. 300bb-1, <i>et. seq.</i> (3 years) ERISA 29 U.S.C. §1027 (6 years)	6 years from date of issue
Collective Bargaining Agreements		Permanent
Correspondence for Business transactions*		Life of subject matter plus 4 years
Correspondence - General		3 years or longer when historic/useful
Correspondence Transitory	RSA 33-A:3-a	As needed for reference

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Deeds		Permanent
District Meeting Minutes & Warrant		Permanent
Insurance policies	RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Notes (loan documents)	RSA 33-A:3-a	Until paid, Audited, plus 3 years
Student Activities Records/Accounts	RSA 33-A:3-a (bank deposit slips and statements 6 years)	Until Audited, plus 6 years
Enrollment Reports:		
▪ Fall Reports A12A (RSA 189:28)		Permanent
▪ Pupil Registers	RSA 189:27-b	Permanent
▪ Resident Pupil Membership Forms		14 years
▪ School Opening Reports		3 years
▪ Statistical Report A-3 (RSA 189:28)		Permanent
Federal Projects Documents	Review specific project/grant program requirements. 20 U.S.C. 1232f, (three years after the completion of the activity for which the funds are used), other authorities may apply	5 years after submission of final audit report and documentation for expenditures, unless there is an ongoing audit
FICA Reports – monthly		7 years
Fixed Trip Requests/Confirmation		1 year
Fixed Assets Schedule		Permanent/as updated
Form C-2 Unemployment		6 years
Wage Report (DES 100)		6 years
Invoices*	Until Audited, plus 1 year	3 years*
MS-22 Budget Form		6 years
MS-23 Budget Form		6 years
MS-25 Budget Form		Permanent
Minutes of Board Meetings, Board Committees	RSA 91-A:2, II, RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Purchase Orders*		Until Audited, plus 1 year
Request for Payment Vouchers*		Until Audited, plus 1 year
Requisitions*		Until Audited, plus 1 year
Retirement Reports – Monthly		1 year

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Time Cards:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bus Drivers 	Lab 803.03. Notification and Records no less than 4 years	5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Custodial 	Lab 803.03. Notification and Records no less than 4 years	5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secretarial 	Lab 803.03. Notification and Records no less than 4 years	5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Substitute Teachers pay slips 	Lab 803.03. Notification and Records no less than 4 years	5 years
Payroll Records	RSA 33-A:3-a Audited, plus 2 year 29 C.F.R. §1627.3 (3 years) ADEA: 29 U.S.C. §626, 29 CFR Part 1602 (2 years from job action); 29 C.F.R § 825.500 FMLA, 29 U.S.C.§2616, 3 years	6 years
Travel Reimbursements*	Until Audit, plus 1 year	3 years*
Treasurer’s Receipts – canceled checks		6 years
Treasurer’s Report		6 years
Vocational Education:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AVI Forms 		1 year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vocational Center Regional Contracts 		20 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal Vocational Forms* 		6 years
Vouchers Manifests*		Until Audit, plus 1 year
Tax Forms:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ W-2’s, 1099 * 	Keep all records of employment taxes for at least four years after filing the 4th quarter for the year. – 26 C.F.R § 31.6001-1 (e)(2)(tax advisors say 7 years)	7 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ W-4 Withholding Exemption Certificate 	Keep all records of employment taxes for at least four years after filing the 4th quarter for the year. – 26 C.F.R § 31.6001-1 (e)(2) (tax advisors say 7 years)	7 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ W-9 	Keep all records of employment taxes for at least four years after filing the 4th quarter for the year. – 26 C.F.R § 31.6001-1 (e)(2) (tax advisors say 7 years)	7 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 941-E Quarterly Taxes 	Keep all records of employment taxes for at least four years after filing the 4th quarter for the year. – 26 C.F.R § 31.6001-1 (e)(2) (tax advisors say 7 years)	7 years

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Personnel Records	RSA 33-A:3-a. Retirement or termination, plus 50 years	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Application for employment - Successful	RSA 33-A:3-a Unsuccessful applicants: current year, plus 3 years.	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Attendance Records:		
▪ Leaves	Family Medical Leave Act – 3 years	3 years
▪ Request for Leaves		1 year
Class Observation Forms		1 year
Criminal Record Check:		
▪ No criminal record	RSA 189:13-a (Superintendent only)	Destroy immediately after review
▪ Criminal record	RSA 189:13-a (Superintendent only)	Destroy within 30 days of receipt
Civil Rights Forms, Discrimination claims, accommodation under ADA, information used for EEO-5 report, EEO-5 report	29 C.F.R. §1602.40; 42 U.S.C. 12117; 42 U.S.C. § §§ 2000e-8-2000e-12; 42 U.S.C. § 2000ff-6; (final disposition, 2 years, 3 years)	6 years
Deferred Compensation plans	RSA 33-A:3-a	7 years
Dues Authorization	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Employment test papers with results	29 C.F.R. §1627.3	One year from date of personnel action
Evaluations	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
HIPPA Documentation	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record HIPPA: 45 C.F.R. §164,316(b) & .530(j) – 6 years. HITECH 42 U.S.C. §17938	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Labor-PELRB actions	RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Labor Negotiations	RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Legal Actions - lawsuits	RSA 33-A:3-a	Permanent
Medical Benefits Application	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Medical exams, Physical examinations used for personnel action	29 C.F.R. §1627.3(One year from date of personnel action) RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record 29 C.F.R. §1910.1020 (term of employment plus 30 years)	Term of Employment, plus 50 years

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Oaths of Office	RSA 33-A:3-a Term, plus 3 years	Permanent
Promotion, demotion, transfer, selection for training, layoff, recall, or discharge	29 C.F.R. §1627.3 (1 year from date of action) RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Recruitment Documents	29 C.F.R. §1627.3	One year from date of personnel action
Re-employment Letter of Assurance	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Retirement application	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
School Bus Driver Drug Tests – positive results & records of administration of test	49 C.F.R. §382.401; 49 C.F.R. § 40.333	5 years
School Bus Driver Drug tests – negative & cancelled	49 C.F.R. §382.401	1 year
Separation from Employment Form/Letter	RSA 33-A:3-a. – Personnel record	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Settlement agreements, even if in anticipation of a lawsuit	RSA 91-A:4, VI (10 years)	Permanent
Staff Development Plan	Term of Employment, plus 50 years	Term of Employment, plus 50 years
Substitute Teacher Lists		7 years
Student Records:		
Applications for Free/Reduced Lunch		6 years
Assessment Results	Ed 306.04 <u>Policy Development</u> , (h) complete and accurate records of students' attendance and scholarship be permanently kept and safely stored in a fire-resistant file, vault, or safe.	Permanent
Attendance	Ed 306.04 <u>Policy Development</u> , (h) complete and accurate records of students' attendance and scholarship be permanently kept and safely stored in a fire-resistant file, vault, or safe.	Permanent
Disciplinary Records		Term of Enrollment, plus 3 years
Early Dismissal		1 year
Emergency Information Form		1 year/as updated
Grades	Ed 306.04 <u>Policy Development</u> , (h) complete and accurate records of students' attendance and scholarship be permanently kept and safely stored in a fire-resistant file, vault, or safe.	Permanent

Type of Record	Statute, Rule, or other legal authority – if none listed the retention period is a recommendation	Retention Period
Health and Physical Records		Term of Enrollment, plus 3 years
Immunization Record		Term of Enrollment, plus 3 years
Log of requests for access to education records	FERPA 20 U.S.C. §1232g (b)(4)(A)	As long as the education record is retained
Medical Reports		Term of Enrollment, plus 3 years
Registration Form		Term of Enrollment, plus 3 years
Student Handbook		1 copy of each edition, Permanent
Transcripts	Ed 306.04 <u>Policy Development</u> , (h) complete and accurate records of students' attendance and scholarship be permanently kept and safely stored in a fire-resistant file, vault, or safe.	Permanent
Internal Records:		
Child Abuse Reports/Allegations		Permanent
Criminal Investigation		Permanent
Personnel Investigations		Permanent
Sexual Harassment		Permanent
Records Management, transfer to storage or disposal	RSA 33-A:3-a (summary report of what category of records, for what range of dates, was put in storage or destroyed)	Permanent
Vehicle maintenance	RSA 33-A:3-a	Life of vehicle, plus 3 years

Legal Reference:

RSA 91-A, Right to Know Law
RSA 189:29-a, Records Retention and Disposition
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(4), Records Retention
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