

Freedom of Information Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a record?

The *Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* defines a record as information in any form and includes information that is written, photographed, recorded or stored in any manner, but does not include computer programs or other mechanisms that produce records.

Examples of types of records include documents, letters, handwritten notes, papers, manuals, journal books, drawings, emails, sticky notes, etc.

What additional fees may be charged to me if I request and receive a record?

If an applicant is provided with a copy of a record or part of a record, the following fees are payable at the time access is given:

- for a photocopy, \$0.25 per page;
- for a computer printout, \$0.25 per page;
- for a paper print from microfilm, \$0.50 per page;
- for 16 millimetre microfilm duplication, non-silver, \$32 per 30.5 metre reel;
- for 35 millimetre microfilm duplication, non-silver, \$35 per 30.5 metre reel;
- for microfiche duplication, non-silver, \$0.50 per fiche;
- for a print of a photograph or slide:
 - \$3 per 3 ½" x 5" black and white print;
 - \$6 per 3 ½" x 5" colour print;
 - \$5 per 4" x 6" black and white print;
 - \$8 per 4" x 6" colour print;
 - \$7 per 5" x 7" black and white print;
 - \$10 per 5" x 7" colour print;
 - \$9 per 8" x 10" black and white print;
 - \$12 per 8" x 10" colour print;
 - \$18 per 11" x 14" black and white print;
 - \$21 per 11" x 14" colour print;
- for a print for which a negative must be made:
 - \$9 per 3 ½" x 5" black and white print;
 - \$12 per 3 ½" x 5" colour print;
 - \$11 per 4" x 6" black and white print;
 - \$14 per 4" x 6" colour print;
 - \$13 per 5" x 7" black and white print;
 - \$16 per 5" x 7" colour print;
 - \$15 per 8" x 10" black and white print;
 - \$18 per 8" x 10" colour print;
 - \$24 per 11" x 14" black and white print;
 - \$27 per 11" x 14" colour print;
- for audio cassette, \$15 for each hour or portion of an hour;
- for a one-half inch video cassette, \$35 for each hour or portion of an hour;
- for a floppy disk, \$10;
- for a form of record not mentioned above, the actual cost of copying the record.

What is considered "personal" information?

The following are examples of personal information about an individual and cannot be released:

- race, creed, religion, colour, sex, family or marital status, disability, age, nationality, ancestry or place of origin
- criminal, financial or health information and history
- any identifying number or symbol (e.g. employee, student or Social Insurance numbers)
- home or business address or telephone number
- travel destinations
- personal opinions or views of an individual, except where they are about another individual

What type of information can SIAST refuse to disclose?

SIAST has the right to refuse access to records that might disclose:

- advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for SIAST
- consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of SIAST
- plans that relate to the management of personnel or the administration of SIAST that have not been implemented
- information (including proposed plans, policies or projects) that could reasonably be expected to result in disclosure of a pending policy or budget decision
- the disclosure of information that reasonably could be expected to interfere with contractual or other negotiations at SIAST

I would like current student statistics that are not published. Is SIAST required to provide them to me if I submit a formal request?

If the statistics are readily available and do not contain any personal information, the information will be released upon payment of the required fees. However, if the requested records do not exist or require a new document or record to be created, the request may be denied.

My husband/wife has asked me to pick up his/her transcript at SIAST Registration Services. Can I do this?

No. Transcripts cannot be provided to individuals, other than the student, without a signed consent form. SIAST protects the privacy of its students. Without a signed consent form from the student, releasing any information about a student, even to a spouse or parent, would be in violation of privacy laws. This includes acknowledging or identifying that an individual is, in fact, a student.

Can a sponsor, parent, spouse or other family member be informed that a student has withdrawn, is on probation, or has been discontinued?

No. Withdrawal, probationary, and discontinuation information cannot be provided to individuals without a signed consent form from the student. Releasing this information without a signed consent is in violation of privacy laws. However, if the student provides a signed consent, SIAST will release and communicate notice of approved temporary discontinuations, completion or temporary withdrawals as requested. Fees may be assessed for providing this service.

Can you give me information about my son's or daughter's application or registration?

No. SIAST will not acknowledge or identify that an individual has applied to its programs or is registered in its courses. Without a signed consent form from the student, the status of an application or registration will only be provided directly to an applicant. This applies even if someone other than the applicant has paid the application fee.

I need to get an urgent message to a student. Can you tell me his/her classroom or phone number?

No. SIAST will not acknowledge or identify that any individual is a student in its programs. SIAST staff will accept a message, without confirming or denying that an individual is a student, and deliver it confidentially to a program area should the individual, in fact, be a current student.

I would like SIAST to participate in a survey. Does the SIAST privacy head respond to this type of request?

Survey requests for students, employees or financial data from external parties/agencies are coordinated through SIAST Institutional Research and Analysis. Please contact the department's coordinator at http://www.siastr.sk.ca/about/departments/institutional_research/ or by telephone (306) 659-3814 or fax (306) 933-5352.

Who can I contact if I would like to appeal a decision of the SIAST privacy head?

If you would like to exercise your right to request a review of a decision, you may do so by completing a "Request for Review" form and forwarding it to the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner within one year from the SIAST privacy head's notice. Your completed form can be sent to 503 – 1801 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 4B4. This form is available by contacting the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner at (306) 787-8350 or online at <http://www.oipc.sk.ca>.