

Ridgewood Federated Home and School Association Document Retention and Destruction Policy

I. Purpose

In accordance with Federal Regulations, which makes it a crime to alter, cover up, falsify, or destroy any document with the intent of impeding or obstructing any official proceeding, this policy provides for the systematic review, retention and destruction of documents received or created by the Ridgewood Federated Home and School Association, (hereinafter referred to as "the Foundation") in connection with the transaction of organization business. This policy covers all records and documents, regardless of physical form, contains guidelines for how long certain documents should be kept and how records should be destroyed. The policy is designed to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, to eliminate accidental or innocent destruction of records and to facilitate the Foundation's operations by promoting efficiency and freeing up valuable storage space.

II. Document Retention

The Foundation follows the document retention procedures outlined below. Documents that are not listed, but are substantially similar to those listed in the schedule will be retained for the appropriate length of time.

III. Foundation's Records

Annual Reports to Secretary of State/Attorney General	Permanent
Articles of Incorporation	Permanent
Board Meeting and Board Committee Minutes	
Board Policies/Resolutions	Permanent
By-laws	Permanent
Construction Documents	Permanent
Fixed Asset Records	Permanent
IRS Application for Tax-Exempt Status (Form 1023)	Permanent
IRS Determination Letter Exemption Letter	Permanent
State Sales Tax	Permanent
Contracts (still in effect)	7 years after expiration
Contracts (after expiration)	7 years
Correspondence (general)	3 years
Accounting and Corporate Tax Records	Permanent
Annual Audits and Financial Statements	Permanent
Depreciation Schedules	Permanent
General Ledgers	Permanent
IRS 990 Tax Returns	Permanent
Business Expense Records	7 years
IRS 1099s	7 years
Journal Entries	7 years
Invoices	7 years

Sales Records (Receipts)	5 years
Petty Cash Vouchers	3 years
Cash Receipts	7 years
Credit Card Receipts	7 years
Bank Records	7 years
Check Registers	7 years
Bank Deposit Slips	7 years
Bank Statements and Reconciliation	7 years
Electronic Fund Transfer Documents	7 years
Payroll and Employment Tax Records	7 years
Payroll Registers	7 years
State Unemployment Tax Records	7 years
Earnings Records	7 years
Garnishment Records	7 years
Payroll Tax returns	7 years
W-2 Statements	7 years
Employee Records	
Employment and Termination Agreements	Permanent
Retirement and Pension Plan Documents	Permanent
Records Relating to Promotion, Demotion or Discharge	7 years after termination
Accident Reports and Worker's Compensation Records	5 years
Salary Schedules	5 years
Employment Applications	3 years
1-9 Forms	3 years after termination
Time Cards	2 years
Donor Records and Acknowledgement Letters	7 years
Grant Applications and Contracts	5 years after completion
Legal, Insurance and Safety Records	Permanent
Appraisals	Permanent
Copyright Registrations	Permanent
Environmental Studies	Permanent
Insurance Policies	Permanent
Real Estate Documents	Permanent
Stock and Bond Records	Permanent
Trademark Registrations	Permanent
Leases	6 years after expiration
OSHA Documents	5 years

IV. Electronic Documents and Records

Electronic documents will be retained as if they were paper documents. Therefore, any electronic files, including records of donations made online, that fall into one of the document types on the above schedule will be maintained for the appropriate amount of time. If a user has sufficient reason to keep an email message, the message should be printed in hard copy and kept in the appropriate file or moved to an "archive" computer file folder. Backup and recovery methods will be tested on a regular basis.

V. Emergency Planning

The Foundation's records will be stored in a safe, secure and accessible manner. Back-up records including site maps, insurance policies, bank account records and computer backups will be stored offsite.

VI. Document Destruction

The Foundation's Executive Director is responsible for the ongoing process of identifying its records, which have met the required retention period and overseeing their destruction. Destruction of financial and personnel-related documents will be accomplished by shredding.

Document destruction will be suspended immediately, upon any indication of an official investigation or when a lawsuit is filed or appears imminent. Destruction will be reinstated upon conclusion of the investigation.

VII. Compliance

Failure on the part of employees to follow this policy can result in possible civil and criminal sanctions against the Foundation and its employees and possible disciplinary action against responsible individuals. The Foundation's Chair of the Audit Committee and the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees will periodically review these procedures with legal counsel or the organization's certified public accountant to ensure that they are in compliance with new or revised regulations.

Revised: December 2009