



FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: September 9, 2026

IN RE: *Stacey Adams v. River Valley School District*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-3434

On July 6, 2026,¹ Stacey Adams (“Requester”) submitted a request (“Request”) to the River Valley School District (“District”) pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.* On July 9, 2026, the District invoked a thirty-day extension to respond; however, as the District did not respond within the extension period, the Request was deemed denied on August 12, 2026. *See* 65 P.S. § 67.902(b)(2). On August 19, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”).

Local agencies have the burden of proving that records are exempt from access. 65 P.S. § 67.708(a)(1). Here, the District did not comply with the RTKL by timely responding to the Request, nor did the District participate on appeal by submitting legal argument or evidence in support of withholding records. Accordingly, the District did not meet its burden of proof under the RTKL. 65 P.S. § 67.305.

For this reason, the appeal is **granted**, and the District is required to provide the requested records to the Requester within thirty days, or, in the alternative, a sworn affidavit or a statement made under the penalty of perjury demonstrating that the records do not exist. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal or petition for review with the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas. 65 P.S. § 67.1302(a). All parties must be served with notice of the appeal. The OOR also shall be served notice and have an opportunity to respond according to court rules as per 65 P.S. § 67.1303, but as the quasi-judicial tribunal adjudicating this matter, the OOR is not a proper party to any appeal and should not be named as a party.² All documents or communications following the issuance of this Final Determination shall be sent to oor-postfd@pa.gov. This Final Determination shall be placed on the website at: <http://openrecords.pa.gov>.

Issued by:

/s/ Josh Macel

JOSH MACEL
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent *via* Appeals Portal to: Stacey Adams; Alice Santoro (AORO)

¹ The Request is dated July 5, 2026, a Sunday, and is considered being received the next business day.

² *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).