pennsylvania
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: November 10, 2026

IN RE: *Stacey Adams v. Connellsville Area School District,* OOR Dkt. AP 2026-4489

On September 29, 2026, Stacey Adams ("Requester") submitted a request ("Request") to the Connellsville Area School District ("District") pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law ("RTKL"), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq*., seeking records related to contracts and subcontracting documents between the District and Opterra from January 1, 2023 through September 9, 2026. On October 7, 2026, the District granted the Request. On October 11, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records ("OOR") asserting all responsive records were not provided. To date, the District has made no evidentiary submission.[1]

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 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**, the District is required to provide additional responsive 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 Fayette 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/ *Taylor T. Clark*

TAYLOR T. CLARK, ESQ.
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent via portal: Stacey Adams; Cherie Routzahn, AORO

[1] On November 5, 2026, the OOR contacted the District regarding the appeal, and the submission period for the District was extended through November 9, 2026.
[2] *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).