

McLoud Public Schools

Open Records Research & Executive Summary

USSSA / Third-Party Athletic Facility Use | Utilities | Public Finance | Governance

Records Request: August 31, 2026 | District Response: September 14, 2026

Executive Finding

McLoud Public Schools reported no known USSSA/user-group agreements, no current outside baseball/softball user-group agreements, and no Board authorization records for the identified historical events. For most other financial, utility, insurance, communications, and scheduling categories, the district reported that records were not located, frequently citing a seven-year retention period. The response therefore documents a significant transparency gap, but it does not by itself establish misconduct, nonpayment, or unauthorized use.

1. Research Purpose and Scope

The August 31 request was made under the Oklahoma Open Records Act to examine third-party use of McLoud Public Schools athletic facilities for USSSA baseball or softball activities. The stated purpose was public-interest research concerning the Pottawatomie County Education Sales Tax, public-school athletic facilities, utility expenditures, and third-party youth-sports use. The request expressly did not presume that any expenditure or facility arrangement was improper; it sought to identify the legal and financial framework governing use of the facilities.

The request specifically identified the April 14-15, 2012 NCAA PreSeason League Tournament, the April 16-June 8, 2012 NCAA Spring League, and the April 6-8, 2018 Brian Crawford Memorial. The extended 2012 league was identified as particularly useful for determining what historical facility-use arrangement existed.

2. District Response - Key Findings

Requested category	District response	Research interpretation
USSSA / user-group agreements	None exist that personnel is aware of	No known agreement identified by district personnel.
Current outside baseball/softball agreements	None exist	No current agreement reported.
2012 / 2018 event agreements	No records located; beyond 7-year retention	Historical authorization cannot be established from produced records.
Board authorization	None exist	No event-specific Board authorization record reported.
Facility rental / user fees	No records located; beyond retention	Compensation structure remains unresolved.
Invoices to USSSA / user groups	No records located	No billing/payment documentation produced.
Utility responsibility	No records located	Responsibility for operating costs remains unresolved.
Utility accounts / invoices	No records located; beyond retention	Historical utility cost allocation cannot be established.
Education Sales Tax - utility expenses	None exist	No responsive event-period sales-tax utility records reported.

Requested category	District response	Research interpretation
Utility reimbursement	No records located; beyond retention	No surviving reimbursement documentation produced.
Insurance / risk allocation	No records located; beyond retention	Historical risk allocation remains undocumented.
Communications / scheduling	No records located; beyond retention	No responsive communications or field-allocation records produced.

3. Evidentiary Distinction

The wording of the district's response matters. "None exist" or "none exist that personnel is aware of" is different from "no records located." A failure to locate records does not prove that an event, payment, authorization, utility expense, or reimbursement did not occur. It establishes only that responsive documentation was not produced by the district's search. A retention-based response likewise means the surviving district record cannot presently establish the historical arrangement.

4. Facility Authorization and Board Oversight

The request sought leases, permits, facility-use agreements, rental agreements, licenses, contracts, tournament-hosting agreements, concession agreements, and other written instruments authorizing third-party use. McLoud responded that no USSSA/user-group agreements exist that personnel is aware of. For the specifically identified 2012 and 2018 events, the district reported no records located because the dates fall beyond its stated seven-year retention period.

The request separately sought Board of Education agendas, minutes, resolutions, motions, contracts, superintendent recommendations, and board packets. McLoud answered that Board authorization records for the listed events do not exist. This does not prove the events were unauthorized: administrative authority or a policy not requiring event-specific Board action could theoretically have applied. The response nevertheless leaves the authorization chain undocumented in the records produced.

5. Financial Accountability

The request sought fee schedules for field and tournament rental, lighting, electricity, water, sanitation, maintenance, field preparation, concessions, admission, parking, and other event-related charges. It also requested invoices, receipts, deposits, payment records, and identification of district accounts receiving third-party payments. McLoud reported no historical rental/user-fee records due to retention and no invoices to USSSA/user groups.

Accordingly, the response does not establish whether a rental fee was charged, how much was charged, who paid it, where any payment was deposited, whether gate or concession rights formed part of the consideration, or whether compensation reflected facility operating costs. These remain unresolved accounting questions rather than evidence of nonpayment.

6. Utilities and Publicly Supported Operating Costs

The request asked who was responsible for electricity, field lighting, water, sewer, trash, custodial services, field preparation, maintenance, and other operating costs, and sought related invoices, consumption data, charges, payment sources, and accounting codes. McLoud reported no records identifying utility responsibility and no historical utility accounts/invoices for the documented event periods, citing retention for the latter.

The district also reported no surviving records of event-related utility reimbursement. The response therefore cannot establish whether third-party operators paid incremental lighting, electricity, water, maintenance, or other event-related costs, whether those costs were embedded in a flat rental rate, or whether they remained district expenses.

7. Pottawatomie County Education Sales Tax

The request sought records showing whether athletic-facility utility invoices were paid in whole or in part through the Pottawatomie County Education Sales Tax, including claims, invoices, purchase orders, warrants, account codes,

classifications, and direct-vendor-payment documentation. McCloud answered "None Exist" for the requested event-period utility-expense records.

The defensible conclusion is narrow: McCloud Public Schools reports no responsive Education Sales Tax records for the requested event-period utility expenses. This should not be restated as proof that the tax was never used. Independent county claims, warrants, district ledgers, vendor-payment records, or audit documentation would be needed to answer that broader question.

8. Insurance, Communications, and Field Allocation

No historical insurance/risk-allocation records, responsive communications, or scheduling/field-assignment records were located, with the district citing its seven-year retention period. Consequently, the surviving response cannot establish historical liability allocation or which particular games and activities occurred on individual McCloud fields.

This is important for multi-site tournament research. Event association is not facility allocation. Event-wide teams, games, gate receipts, umpire expenses, or other economic activity should not be attributed to McCloud without facility-specific evidence.

9. Research Classification

Dimension	Current classification
Facility ownership/control	Public school district
Third-party activity	Historical USSSA-related activity identified in research
Known written USSSA/user-group agreement	None known to district personnel
Current outside baseball/softball agreement	None reported
Historical event-specific agreement	Not located; retention limitation
Board authorization	District states none exists for listed events
Rental/payment documentation	Not located
Utility responsibility / reimbursement	Not established by produced records
Education Sales Tax event-utility documentation	District states none exists
Insurance / risk documentation	Not located; retention limitation
Facility-specific scheduling	Not located; retention limitation
Overall status	Documented third-party activity; governance and financial framework unresolved from available district records

10. Significance to the Statewide Facility Research

McCloud provides a useful public-facility case study because the research question extends beyond whether a tournament can be associated with a taxpayer-supported facility. The governance question is whether the surviving public record establishes authority to use public property, consideration paid for that use, allocation of operating costs, insurance protection, and the boundary between public expense and private event economics.

For McCloud, the September 14 response leaves much of that chain unresolved or undocumented in presently available district records. That is a meaningful transparency finding. It is not, standing alone, a finding of wrongdoing.

11. Recommended Follow-Up

The original request asked that, when records had been destroyed under a retention schedule, the district identify the applicable retention schedule, destruction date if known, and category of records destroyed. The response repeatedly cites a seven-year retention period but does not identify the specific schedule, record-series classification, or destruction dates.

Recommended follow-up: Please identify and provide the records-retention schedule relied upon for each category characterized as "Beyond Retention of 7 years," including the applicable record-series classification and, if available, the date or approximate period in which responsive 2012 and 2018 records were destroyed.

Source Record and Method

This report is based on Kenneth R. Crawford's August 31, 2026 Oklahoma Open Records Act request concerning USSSA/third-party use of McLoud Public Schools athletic facilities and Deputy Superintendent Andrew Winters' September 14, 2026 response on behalf of McLoud Public Schools. Interpretations in this report are research analysis and are intentionally separated from the district's representations.