February 9, 2010 [e-mailed to ol_title1_peg@yahoo.com]

O'Kema Lewis
Chicago, Illinois 60616-4692

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This letter is in response to your follow up request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your initial request was received on 1/20/10. Your follow up request was received on 2/2/10.

You have requested documents related to the use of Title I funds in Chicago Public Schools.

Initial Request 2 - "I am asking for the public details of how the 5% was distributed and all expenditure information including the District 299 documentation indicating how parents of Title I students were included in the decision of how the 5% set-aside grant funds were allotted. All information is in accordance with the terms of public law, Title I - Part A subpart one Section 1118 3. A. B. C.”

Initial Response 2 - The source for this information would be the CPS budget - or you could contact CPS.

Follow up Response 2 - The information you seek is available from CPS - not ISBE. In response to any FOIA request, a public body is not obligated to seek information outside its own organization. Because CPS is the source of the information you seek, you were directed to that entity.

Initial Request 3 - "I am also requesting the exact amount of money that District 299 was “fined” for school year 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 for allowing the Title I - Part A subpart one Section 1118 Parental Involvement funds derived from the terms of Section 3. Reservations A. B. C. funds to be used to pay the expenses and up front cost of “community residents” using the funds for their conference and training expenses. As the funds were only to be expended for parents of District 299 Title I- ESEA students per the terms of Section 1118.”

Initial Response 3 - We have no information responsive to this request. You should direct this request to CPS.
Follow up Response 3 – We have no knowledge of the fines to which you refer. It is suggested that you check with your source of information – whether it is CPS or another entity.

Initial Request 4 – “I would like a copy of the letter indicating that the ISBE informed the District that they were in violation and the exact fee’s they were fined for violating the terms of Title I – Part A subpart one Section 1118 and in closing, I would also like a copy of the last current AUDIT REPORT for District 299.”

Initial Response 4 – We have no documents responsive to the first part of your request. You are provided a copy of the most current completed audit, which is for FY06.

Follow up Response 4 – Having no knowledge of a fine, we have no letters related to your request.

You requested the “last current audit report for District 299.” The most current completed audit is for FY 06. While yearly audits have occurred since FY 06, they are not yet finalized. There are ongoing communications between ISBE and District 299 concerning the most recent audits.

Upon examining the FY 06 audit, you will note several findings pertaining to the parental involvement program. When subsequent audits are finalized, they will be made available to the public.

In summary, we have provided all pertinent information that is available. If certain documents are not within our possession, the Illinois Freedom of Information Act does require a public body to seek documents outside its organization.

If you have questions, contact Mark Wancket at 217-782-4648.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information