October 22, 2009

Michael J. Foley
Foley & Foley
9644 South Hamilton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60643-1631

Dear Mr. Foley:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on 10/1/09.

Request 1—“All documents reflecting the total number of TAOEP grants during the years 2001-2005, and of that total number of TAOEP grants, the number which were new grants and the number which were renewed grants.”

Response 1—Information regarding past TAOEP grants can be located at the FRIS section on the ISBE website: http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/

In the yellow box, select the desired Project Year. Next, select the “Summary Projects” button at the bottom of the right column. Click the pull down menu and locate project number 3695 (Truants Alternative/Optional Ed.) and select “Go.” By selecting “Project Listing” (#2) you will have access to all grants for that year.

Request 2—“All TAOEP grant applications prepared, signed and submitted by Joseph Turek during the period from February 28, 2004 to the present, and of those grants, which grants were approved and which grants were denied.”

Response 2—As evidenced by information provided on FRIS (See Response 1), TAOEP grants are not signed and submitted by individuals.

Request 3—“All correspondence, e-mail communication and other recorded communication between former ISBE employee Joseph Turek and former ISBE counsel Johnathan (sic) Furr, and between attorney Nolan Lipsky and former ISBE counsel Johnathan (sic) Furr between 2004 and 2007.

Response 3—Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (f), the requested communications are exempt from disclosure.

Request 4—“All State Board policies, rules and guidances on the permitted and appropriate use of funds designated for administration and support services under TAOEP grants.”
Response 4 - TAOEP rules and guidance can be found in the Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/2-3.66, 23 Ill. Adm. Code CH I, Section 205, and the annual Request for Proposal (RFP) documents. The latest RFP can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/taoep.htm

Request 5 - “All State policies, rules and guidances applicable to the ISBE on the use and compensation of private grant writers in obtaining state grants.”

Response 5 - The current “State and Federal Grant Administration Policy and Fiscal Requirements and Procedures” can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fiscal_procedure_hanbk.pdf

Rules specific to TAOEP can be found at: http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/205ARK.pdf

Request 6 - “All State policies, rules and guidances applicable to the ISBE on grant writers being paid a percentage of a successful state grant.”

Response 6 - See Response 5.

Request 7 - “All State policies, rules and guidances applicable to the ISBE on paying grant writers for each succeeding year of a multi-year grant.”

Response 7 - See Response 5.

Request 8 - “All ethics opinions rendered by the ISBE on the conduct of current and former employees from November 1, 2004 to the present.”

Response 8 - See Enclosure A.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Enclosure