September 22, 2009

Rosalind Rossi
Chicago Sun-Times
Ninth Floor News Room
350 N. Orleans Street
Chicago, Illinois  60654

Dear Rosalind:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received 9/11/08.

Request 1 – “All 2009 Illinois school report card data for every Illinois school, every Illinois school district, and statewide.”

Response 1 – The data you seek are not yet available. We anticipate its release in October.

Request 2 – “the record layout for the 2009 report card data.”

Response 2 – See Response 1.

Request 3 – “for ISAT and PSAE and ACT, please provide the 2009 student-by-student “scale scores” for each subject test taken at each school, along with each student’s school name and school code. If possible, please include indicators for each student’s race, free—or-reduced-price lunch status, LEP status and whether special ed accommodations were used. This data is usually available before the report card data and if so, we’d appreciate it as soon as possible.”

Response 3 – The data you seek are not yet available. We expect student level data to be available in October.

Request 4 – “a list of the scale score cutoffs for “academic warning, does not meet, meets, and exceeds”’ for each 2009 test given.”

Response 4 - This information is available at:
http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/cut_points_09.pdf
Request 5 – “any and all audits, reports, analyses or memos in the last year relating to ISATs or PSAEs or ACTs.”


No other information is available at this time.

Request 6 – “a list of any 2009 ISAT, PSAE or ACT test-related changes, including but not limited to changes to the 2009 test format, test cutoffs, rules on how to count the testing population or subgroups, rules on test accommodations and rules related to the ELL or special education subgroups or new arrivals to a school. Please forward this immediately as it should be available now.”

Response 6 – The new ISATELL accommodations for the Spring 2009 assessment include:
- Linguistically Modified items for mathematics and science
- Mathematics short- and extended-response items appeared in English and Spanish
- Reading extended response and Mathematics short and extended response items could be answered in English or Spanish

The new PSAE ELL accommodations for the Spring 2009 assessment include:
- English/Spanish DVD for Day 1 & 2 mathematics and science: A DVD for individual administration displayed a standard English form on the screen accompanied by a voice reading the items and answer choices in Spanish.

Request 7 – “the list of schools and districts missing AYP for one, two, three, four, etc. years, with their school or district code, and the level of AYP sanction each is on.”

Response 7 – See Response 1.

Request 8 – “the 2009 “Standards Analysis” for every state test taken, broken down by school, by district, and statewide. This list “strengths and weaknesses” in various subjects.”

Response 8 – “The Item Analysis Summaries (IAS) for 2009 ISAT are now posted for all elementary and middle schools on the IIRC site at http://iirc.niu.edu/. To see the IAS results, go to your school profile page and click on the “Test Results” tab. On the right side of the test selection header, click on the “Item Analysis” link. You can also print the IAS table in PDF format by clicking on the PDF link on the upper right corner of the screen.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Copy: Art Golab (agolab@suntimes.com)