Rec'd 9/11/09

To: Matt Vanover (mvanover@isbe.net), Mark Wancket (mwancket@isbe.net), ISBE
From: R. Rossi, Chicago Sun-Times (mrossi@suntimes.com)
CC: A. Golab, Chicago Sun-Times (agolab@suntimes.com)
Date: Thursday, Oct. 10, 2009
Re: FOIA for 2009 state report card data, AYP list etc.

Dear Mr. Vanover and Mr. Wancket,

This is a request for public information, as provided for under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (Public Law 83-1013).

Please send us the following information, AS EACH PIECE OF IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, to agolab@suntimes.com as noted below.

1) All 2009 Illinois school report card data for every Illinois school, every Illinois school district, and statewide.

2) the record layout for the 2009 report card data.

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.

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

5) any and all audits, reports, analyses or memos in the last year relating to ISATs or PSAEs or ACTs.

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.

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.

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

If there is an easier or more accurate way to get at the same information, or if you have any questions, please call me at 312 321 2522.

Otherwise, please produce this information in an Excel or other spreadsheet format, zip the files, email them to agolab@suntimes.com and call Art Golab at 312 321 2522 so he can check for its receipt. If this delivery is not convenient for you, please call Art Golab at 3112 321 2522 to arrange another form of delivery, such as overnight mail delivery of a CD.
If any of this request is denied, please list the specific exemptions on which you are relying to withhold the information. As the FOIA requires, I will expect to receive the remaining, non-exempt portion.

I will pay reasonable costs for the materials. However, I request that you waive any such fees under the provision of the FOIA that permits you to do so when release of the requested information would be in the public interest. If you determine otherwise, please notify me of the costs before filling my request.

Thank you for your help in this effort.

Cordially,

Rosalind Rossi
Chicago Sun-Times
350 N. Orleans
Chicago IL 60654
Phone 312 321 2522 (City Desk); (direct)
Fax 312 321 3084
Email rrossi@suntimes.com