Freedom of Information Act Request Letter 09/22/09

Illinois State Board of Education
Attn: Public Information Officer
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Public Records Officer:

This is a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

I request that a copy of documents containing the following information be provided to me:

All official records maintained related to gun-related expulsions from public schools in Cook County from August 1998 to today’s date of September 22, 2009. This request should include the paper forms submitted by the individual schools to the Illinois State Board of Education in compliance with the mandates of the Gun-Free Schools Act and any reports prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education on the topic.

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am a student journalist at Loyola University Chicago, and this request is made as part of a news gathering process and not for a commercial use.

I request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of criminal patterns and public safety issues in the state and is not primarily in my commercial interest.

Should a fee waiver not be granted, I request to be notified of the anticipated expenses should they exceed $25 before they are accrued. In the interest of expediency, I further ask that all communication of this request, including acknowledgement of receipt, be made by e-mail.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Alicia Ramirez
Chicago, IL 60626