April 26, 2011

Reg. No.
Pinckneyville C.C.
P.O. Box 999
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274

Dear Mr.

This letter is in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your request was received 4/20/11.

You have submitted a list of eleven questions regarding teachers and education in Illinois. FOIA is not the vehicle through which individuals are to seek answers to questions. However, in the spirit of cooperation, the following responses correspond to your questions.

Response 1 – The enclosed document (copied from the Illinois School Code) responds to your inquiry.

Response 2 – See Response 1.

Response 3 – Yes. Also, see Response 1.

Response 4 – This question should be directed to: Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60603

Response 5 – Factors include population, local property values, income status of student families, etc.

Response 6 – See Response 4.

Response 7 – Yes, it is still possible for a student to fail a grade. NCLB does not address the local requirements a school district puts in place for grade promotion. This is determined by the local district.

Response 8 – The overall test score of an entire school may cause a school to be placed into federal or state improvement status if certain benchmarks are not met. Being in state or federal improvement status means that certain activities must occur, such as the
development of a school improvement plan. If the school is in federal status, the school may have to offer choice or supplemental educational services or take additional corrective actions depending on the stage of status. The students scores for all schools are rolled together to give a district score which also can place a district into federal or state improvement status where similar corrective actions are required.

Response 9 - All Illinois public school students are to receive instruction in language arts; mathematics; biological and physical sciences; social sciences; fine arts; and physical development and health. As a local control state, each local school district determines the books, classes and other resources to be used for instruction.

Response 10 - See Response 4.

Response 11 - See Response 4.

The enclosed CD contains addresses for all Illinois schools and districts.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosures