August 24, 2009

John Robert Powers School
8430 West Bryn Mawr
Suite 100
Chicago, Illinois 60631

Dear Director:

The Illinois State Board of Education has received information that you are conducting recruiting activities and holding classes in the State of Illinois. Please be advised that a certificate of approval from the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools must be obtained before a school can conduct any business.

Illinois Compiled Statutes, 105 ILCS 425/5. Necessity for certificate of approval - Person eligible states:

No person, partnership, or corporation shall conduct, or do business as or otherwise operate or maintain a private business and vocational school in this State without having been issued a certificate of approval by the Superintendent. A person, partnership or corporation is qualified to receive a certificate of approval who makes proper application therefore and complies with this Act and with every standard, rule and regulation pertaining thereto. Such certificates of approval are not transferable. Whenever a change of ownership of a school occurs, an application for a certificate of approval for the school under such changed ownership shall immediately be filed with the Superintendent. Whenever an owner, partnership or corporation operates a school at different locations, an application for a certificate of approval shall be filed for each location. A school must have approval prior to operating at any location, and shall make application to the Superintendent for any change of location and for a classroom extension at a new or changed location. Each application required to be filed in accordance with the provisions of this Section shall be accompanied by the required fee, and all such applications shall be made on forms prepared and furnished by the Superintendent.
105 ILCS 425/5.1 Courses of instruction - Necessity for approval - Degree granting authority.

The Superintendent shall approve all courses of instruction and subjects offered by private business and vocational schools prior to instruction being given. If any course of instruction or subject offered by a school falls within the requirements for approval of this Act or the standards, rules and regulations established and promulgated hereunder, all of its offerings whether secondary or post-secondary, vocational, or avocational, must be approved by the Superintendent.

Furthermore, 105 ILCS 425/1. Definitions states:

A "private business and vocational school" or "school" is an educational institution privately owned and operated by an owner, partnership, or corporation, offering courses of instruction or subjects, for which tuition is charged, whether such courses of instruction or subjects are offered by in-residence, correspondence, or other methods to prepare individuals:

(1) to follow a trade or artistic occupation;
(2) to pursue a manual, mechanical, technical, industrial, business, commercial, office, personal service (other than nursing), or other non-professional occupation; or
(3) to follow a profession, if the profession is not subject to licensing or registration of persons practicing such profession or if the school is not approved and regulated by the agency with such licensing or registration authority;
(4) to improve, enhance, or add to the skills and abilities of the individual relative to occupational responsibilities or career opportunities.

"Educational institution" is any organization, whether located within or outside of this State, which promotes business and vocational education, even though the institution's principal effort may not be exclusively educational in nature.

Please contact us at 217/782-2948 to discuss this matter. A copy of the original application package for approval of a private business and vocational school is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Patrick Murphy
Division Administrator
Educator and School Development

Enclosures