August 13, 2010

Amber Egan

Dear Ms. Egan:

This letter is response to your requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your requests were received 8/10/10.

FOIA is the mechanism through which entities are able to seek access to public documents. Rather than requesting documents, the majority of your items seek answers to questions. However, in the spirit of cooperation, we are doing our best to respond to your inquiries.

Request A-1 - “The names and types of grants available to colleges and universities specifically for alternative certification programs in teaching.”

Response A-1 - There are no state grant funds awarded to institutions of higher education for alternative certification programs.

Request A-2 - “The amount of money owed by the state to each of these institutions for alternative certification programs.”


Request A-3 - “The subject areas in which alternative certification programs are accepted by the Illinois State Board of Education as a means to certification.”

Response A-3 - Alternative certification programs may be approved in any area of specialization which an Illinois Institution of Higher Education has an approved teacher preparation program.

Request A-4 - “The guidelines set for determining which alternative programs will be supported through state funds.”

Response A-4 - See Response A-1.

Request A-5 - “The guidelines set for determining which subject areas will be served by alternative programs.”
Response A-5 – Go the following location:
http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm
Information is located in Part 25 (Certification) Subpart B Section 25.65 (Alternative Education).

Also, go the following section of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/21):
Section 5/21-5b addresses this topic as well.

Request B-1 – “The number of current public school teachers who earned their bachelor’s degrees outside of the United States of America.”
Response B-1 - 1888

Request B-2 – “The number of current public school teachers who earned their master’s degrees outside of the United States of America.”
Response B-2 - 571

Request B-3 – “The processes in place to confirm the accuracy of educational documentation of foreign universities and colleges.”
Response B-3 – Information can be found at the following location:

Request B-4 – “The requirements for ESL endorsement.”
Response B-4 – Go the following location:
http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm
Information is located in two sections within Part 1 – “Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision” and “Emergency Amendment Effective June 24, 2010.”

Request B-5 – “The methods used to assess fluency in English for individuals seeking teaching certification whose native language is not English.”
Response B-5 – See Response B-4. In addition to Part 1, information can be located in Part 25 (Section 25.90).

Request C-1 – “Are teaching positions publically funded tracked by the Illinois State Board of Education? How?”
Response C-1 – We have no documents responsive to this request.

Request C-2 – “What evidence (specifically) are school districts required to provide that a fully qualify individual could not be found to staff a teaching position?”
Response C-2 – ISBE Certification Form 73-96. (See Attachment “11-046 – egan – doc.pdf.”)
Request C-3 – “What school districts have received educational waivers for teachers? In what subject areas were these waivers sought?”

Response C-3 – We have no documents responsive to this request.

Request C-4 – “What school districts failed to retain teachers endorsed in subjects areas designated as a shortage area?”

Response C-4 – We have no documents responsive to this request.

Request C-5 – “What teaching positions in Illinois public middle and high schools can be held without an endorsement in the subject area?”

Response C-5 – See Response B-4.

Request C-6 – “What are the educational and certificate requirements for special education case managers?”

Response C-6 – Go the following location:
http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm
Information is located in two sections within Part 226 – “Personnel Required to be Qualified” (Section 226.800) and “Special Education Teaching Approval” (Section 226.810).

Request C-7 – “Do rules and/or regulations exist for educator titles? For example, can publically funded school districts create titles which are not specifically named in the Illinois Administrative Code?”

Response C-7 – We have no documents responsive to this request.

Request C-8 – “Can an individual occupy and/or be listed in a position as an administrator who does not hold a type 75 teaching certificate?”

Response C-8 – See Response B-4.

Request C-9 – “Can an individual occupy and/or be listed in a position as a teacher who does not hold a teaching certificate?”

Response C-9 – See Response B-4.

Sincerely,
/
Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachment