February 23, 2011

Jesse H. Ruiz
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Dear Ms. Grazulis:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received 2/7/11.

You have requested "any and all information regarding suspensions and expulsions (sic), separately, for state high school districts by category, specifically for Special Education and Black students compared (sic) to the total number in the district for the past 3 years." 

The attached document (11-215 – Grazulis – doc.pdf) is provided in response to your request. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a), data related to student groups of ten or less have been redacted as disclosure would constitute a violation of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Redacted cells are designated with an asterisk.

Note that the document provides counts of students with disabilities suspended or expelled for more than 10 days in the school year. These are the data reported to the U.S. Department of Education – which does not distinguish between students removed by suspension or expulsion for more than 10 days.

District level suspension and expulsion data reports (available at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/eyov_report.htm) identify the ethnicity of students removed for disciplinary purposes.

If you have questions, contact Mark Wancket at 217-782-4648.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachment