July 1, 2011

Jacqueline Daly

Dear Ms. Daly:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your request was received 6/24/11.

You have requested information regarding the cost per participant and the total amount ISBE paid to two vendors (Academic Advantage and Unity Parenting) in FY10 and FY11.

Unity Parenting, which was in its first year as a provider in 2010-11, was not selected by any parents; thus, it would have signed no contracts with any districts and was not required to complete any cost reports. So the only cost reports you will find at this time are those for Academic Advantage.

Estimated cost reports for providers can be accessed at the following location: http://webapps.isbe.net/pars/. For both the user name and password, type “guest.”

On the following page, select the link to “Search Cost Reports” – which is located near the bottom of the page.

On the next page, locate “Report Type.” In the pull down menu select “Estimated Cost Contract Amount.” In the pull down menu for “Providers” select the desired provider. You will likely find a listing of several schools/districts. Upon viewing each “Estimated Cost Contract Amount Report,” you will find both a cost per hour and a cost per pupil (which is the total cost for the program per pupil).

If the provider served more than one district in 2010-11, there will likely be more than one estimated cost report as a provider’s costs can vary for different districts.

Note that ISBE does not provide direct payment to providers. Providers are paid through contracts they sign with individual districts. In order to provide information regarding the amounts that providers can legally charge districts, you would need to specify if you seek data for specific districts served by a provider or all districts served. (Each district has its own billing report in the database.)
If you have questions, contact Mark Wancket at 217-782-4648.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel