September 16, 2010

Matt Vanover
Freedom of Information Office
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

Dear Mr. Vanover:

Pursuant to the state open records law, 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. 140/1 to 140/11.5, I write to request access to and a copy of:

(1) The percentiles represented by the Basic Skills test (Field 096) minimum scores for each sub-area. Specifically, prior to September 2010, the minimum acceptable scores for each sub-area were:

- **Reading Comprehension**: 50% of questions correct;
- **Language Arts**: 50% of questions correct;
- **Mathematics**: 35% of questions correct; and,
- **Writing**: score 5 out of 12.

We are seeking the percentiles represented by each of the scores above. We would like the distribution to be the first cohort of test-takers after these proficiency cut-scores were implemented and the two most recent cohorts.

(2) The percentile represented by the overall passing scaled score (240) for the same Basic Skills test (Field 096). As for the sub-areas, we would like the distribution to be the first cohort of test takers after setting this standard and the two most recent cohorts.

(3) The percentages correct represented by the sub-test passing scores set for the new Basic Skills tests (Field 300) implemented in September 2010. Specifically, we are asking for the percent correct represented by these sub-test scores:

- **Writing sub-test scaled score**: 8
- **Reading sub-test passing score**: 30
- **Language Arts passing score**: 27
- **Mathematics passing score**: 21.

(4) The data tables provided to the Illinois State Board of Education by Evaluation Systems with the panel-based passing score recommendations and standard error adjustments of one and two standard deviations for the new Basic Skills tests (Field
300). These tables were provided to ISBE after Evaluation Systems conducted the November 5, 2009 scoring review conference.

If your agency does not maintain these public records, please let me know who does and include the proper custodian’s name and address.

I agree to pay any reasonable copying and postage fees of not more than $50.00. If the cost would be greater than this amount, please notify me. Please provide a receipt indicating the charges for each document.

As provided by the open records law, I will expect your response within five (5) working days. See 5 Ill. Comp. Stat. 140/3(c).

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Rickenbrode, Program Manager
National Council on Teacher Quality