April 25, 2012

Amanda Reavy Simhauser  
Public Information Office  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. First St.  
Springfield, IL 62777  
(217) 782-4648

Amanda, Mary and Matt,

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140), this is a request for public records maintained by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Please provide:

1. The raw file containing erasure data produced by Pearson and given to ISBE so the state board can conduct its investigation/review.
2. Any initial analysis the state has completed on the Pearson erasure data. In a telephone conversation on April 13, 2012, ISBE spokeswoman Mary Fergus mentioned that an initial analysis had been completed but there were concerns about the validity and the state was discussing other possible ways to analyze and investigate scores.
3. Any communications, memos, or documents related to the analysis and/or its reliability.
4. Any communications, memos, or documents illustrating a timeline of the cheating investigation since Superintendent Christopher Koch ordered an investigation.

Chicago Public Media is a non-profit organization working for the public good. This request is made as part of our newsgathering efforts. We ask that you waive the fees for this service. If you do not waive the fees, we agree to pay any reasonable copying and postage fees of not more than $200. If the cost would be greater than this amount, please notify us. Please provide a receipt indicating the charges.

If the requested records exist in electronic form, we request they be provided in both print and electronic forms.

Illinois law requires your office to respond to this request within five [5] working days. If you have questions about this request, please contact me. 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 portions of material that do not fall under the exemption(s) cited.

As a member of the media, I believe disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest.

Becky Vevea  
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