Rec’d 8/2/11

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act I hereby request any and all documents and reports associated with the attached document dated June 30, 2010. This includes any and all reports and responses from or to the ISBE and the United States Department of Education as they relate to this letter.

If there's a cost, please first provide an estimate along with a breakdown of estimated costs. If the response can be sent via email, that would work best.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Pierce
Honorable Christopher Koch  
Superintendent of Education  
Illinois Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777  

Dear Superintendent Koch:

During the week of April 12, 2010, a team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) office reviewed the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) administration of the following programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended:

- Title I, Part A (Basic);
- Title I, Part D (Neglected and Delinquent); and
- Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program).

Enclosed is a report based upon this review.

The 2009-2010 fiscal year began the first year of the third cycle of monitoring under ESEA. Based on six years of monitoring, we have learned significantly more about the status of States, districts, and schools in implementing the requirements of Title I. ED has collected data on critical compliance issues under the ESEA in all States. This knowledge has informed the current cycle of monitoring, and is reflected in the procedures and monitoring protocols utilized in the onsite review process.

The ESEA, as amended, has increased the emphasis on accountability for all students, and has focused on States’ responsibilities to work with districts and schools to improve instruction and student achievement. ED will continue to work closely with States to define their responsibilities in implementing the requirements of the ESEA.

Monitoring for the Title I, Part A; Neglected and Delinquent; and Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program will continue to be conducted in three broad areas—accountability, program improvement, parental involvement and options; and fiduciary responsibilities. Prior to, during, and following the onsite monitoring review, the ED team conducted a number of activities (described in the enclosed report) to verify compliance with the critical monitoring indicators in each of the three broad areas for all three programs.

The enclosed report contains a listing of the critical monitoring elements in each of the three areas for the three programs monitored, a description of the scope of the monitoring review, and the findings, required corrective actions, and recommendations that the ED team cited as a result of the review. The ISBE has 30 business days from receipt of this report to respond to all of the compliance issues contained herein. ED staff will review your response for
sufficiency and will determine which areas are acceptable and which will require further
documentation of implementation. ED will allow 30 business days for receipt of this further
documentation if required. ED recognizes that some corrective actions may require longer
than the prescribed 30 days, and in these instances ED will work with you to determine a
reasonable timeline. In those instances where additional time is required to implement
specific corrective actions, you must submit a request for such an extension in writing to ED,
including a timeline for completion of all related actions.

Each State that participates in an onsite monitoring review and that has significant
compliance findings in one or more of the programs monitored will have a condition placed
on that program’s grant award specifying that the State must submit (and receive approval of)
documentation that all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report have been
corrected. When documentation sufficient to address all compliance areas has been
submitted and approved, ED will then remove the condition from your grant award.

Please be aware that the issues presented in the enclosed report reflect the status of
compliance in Illinois at the time of SASA’s onsite review. ISBE may receive further
communication from ED that will require it to address noncompliance occurring prior or
subsequent to the onsite visit.

The ED team would like to thank Melina Wright and her staff for their hard work and the
assistance they provided prior to and during the review in gathering materials and providing
access to information in a timely manner. The ED team was impressed with the efforts of
your State’s staff to implement the many requirements of the three programs monitored.

We look forward to working further with your staff to resolve the issues contained in this
report and to improve the quality of Title I programs in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Zellie Stevenson, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
Student Achievement and
School Accountability Programs

Enclosure

cc: Melina Wright, Director
Marci Johnson
Cheryl Bradley, ND Coordinator