Freedom of Information Office
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
ATTN: FOIA Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Through the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the following information from the Illinois State Board of Education for the 2005-2006 school year. After three FOIA requests, the Hazel Crest School District 152 ½ (HCSD) has not responded. This request is for public information, as provided under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (Public Law 83-1013). This FOIA request was suggested by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to address the issues contained herein, and is necessary for verification with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) under guidelines for Supplemental Educational Services (SES), Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to determine if there was possible program fraud in the Hazel Crest School District (152 ½) which may require an investigation. Please provide me with following information in a letter, record or report format with specific data for 8th grade students with disabilities, from the 2005-2006 school year enrolled in an after school tutoring program, Soar to Success, along with correspondence the district had with the provider and ISBE specific to the following criteria:

1) What were the dates of the reporting period for the Soar to Success SES during 2005-2006?

2) How were parents of children with disabilities notified when the SES after tutoring session, known as Soar to Success, was cancelled on May 2, 2006 for 8th grade students?

3) What was the name of the special education director and other administrators in charge of monitoring the SES after school program?

4) How effective was the superintendent’s supervision of the administrators stated above to assure they were following program requirements for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs)?

5) Were teachers and parents provided with policies and procedures to file complaints?

6) What assurances did the district provide to ISBE on the approval application?
7) What procedure did the district follow to determine the number of students with (IEPs) who were enrolled in the SES?

8) What was the name of the teacher who was responsible for any achievement gains for 8th grade students, and was the teacher commended for student success?

9) What assessment and/or evaluation was utilized to determine whether gains in student achievement occurred at the 8th grade level, and if these gains contributed to the school (Robert Frost Middle School) making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?

10) Did the district accurately deduct the correct amount when the SES session(s) was/were cancelled?

11) Did the district hold monthly meetings as outlined in the provider’s professional development workshop?

12) How were parents notified when their child would be dropped due to a lack of attendance or when the child missed 5 or more sessions?

13) How did the district assure there were appropriate accommodations/modifications for students with IEPs at the 8th grade level?

14) Why did the district administrators neglect their professional duties to ensure consistency with IEPs?

15) What was the reason for the district’s refusal to issue progress reports to parents of students with IEPs?

16) Why did the district discriminate against students with IEPs, and never provided the 8th grade SES tutor with a relevant portion or copy of any student’s IEPs?

I will pay reasonable costs for the materials. However, I request that you waive any such fees under the provision of the FOIA that permits you to do so when the release of the requested information would be in the public interest. If you determine to the contrary, please inform me of the cost before filling my request.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Janine Holmes

Copy pending for US Department of Education if investigation is necessary