December 30, 2011

Alexi Nunn Freeman
Staff Attorney
Advancement Project

Emma Tai
Coordinator
Voices of Youth in Chicago Education

Dear Ms. Freeman and Ms. Tai:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information, which was processed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your request — pertaining to suspensions, expulsions, arrests, student population and graduation data — was received on Dec. 22, 2011.

Request 1 — Records for all school districts in Illinois indicating the number of (1) in-school suspensions, (2) out-of-school suspensions, (3) expulsions, 4) referrals of students to alternative schools or programs for disciplinary reasons, and (5) any other disciplinary actions taken from the 2008-09 school year to the present, aggregated by as many of the following variables as possible: school year, school district, age, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL status, SES status, disability, date of offense, type of offense, and length of punishment.

Response 1 — Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3 (e) (vi), we seek an extension as the request for records cannot be complied with within the time limits prescribed. The new due date will be Jan. 9.

Request 2 — Records indicating the number of students arrested or referred to the juvenile or criminal justice systems for alleged misconduct in schools from the 2008-09 school year to the present, disaggregated by as many of the following variables as possible: school year, school district, age, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL Status, SES status, type of offense, date of offense, and outcome of arrest or referral.

Request 2 — Our agency does not collect or maintain student arrest data.
Request 3 - Records indicating the student population for all Illinois school districts as well as charter schools, from the 2008-09 school year to the present, including those containing information disaggregated by school year, school district and/or charter, month, age, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL status, SES status, and disability for each school year.

Response 3 - Fall Enrollment Counts from the 2008-2009 school year to the 2010-2011 school year are available on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at http://www.isbe.net/research/htnl/s/fall_housing.htm. Under the “2010-2011 Students Housed by Serving School” heading, click on the “District Summary” link. School districts are grouped by county in Column A. The “District Summary” link is also available under the previous year headings.

Request 4 - Records indicating the number of graduates for all Illinois school districts, from the 2008-09 school year to the present, including those containing information disaggregated by school year, school district, age, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL status, SES status, disability, and type of diploma for each school year.

Response 4 - Some of the information you are seeking may be found in the End-of-Year Reports posted at http://www.isbe.net/research/htnl/co~report.htm. Under the heading indicating each school year, click on the “High School Graduates, by Gender and Race/Ethnicity” link. Please note our agency does not collect information on type of diploma.

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Reavy Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or areavy@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel