December 21, 2011

VIA REGULAR MAIL and E-MAIL (FOIA@isbe.net; mvanover@isbe.net)

Mr. Matt Vanover
Illinois State Board of Education FOIA Officer
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st St
Springfield, Illinois 62777

RE: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Vanover:

This letter is to request access to the following records and information in your custody and control. Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140 (2011), please make the following records available for review and photocopying:

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, disaggregated 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.

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.

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.
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.

Should the cost to produce the requested records exceed $100.00, please advise us of the costs prior to duplicating or otherwise compiling the records. Whenever possible, please provide electronic copies of the requested records.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at anunnfreeman@advancementproject.org (202-728-9557, x 309) and emma@voyceproject.org. Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexi Nunn Freeman
Staff Attorney
Advancement Project

Emma Tai (ET)
Coordinator
Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (VOYCE)