Dear Mr. Toner:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Feb. 3.

You have requested the following information about Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarships awarded from January 2007 through January 2012 by legislators in 18 legislative districts:

Request 1 - The total dollar costs of legislative scholarships per person for the following House districts: 28, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 81, 80, 82, 85.

Response 1 – As Amanda Simhauser explained in a phone conversation with you on Feb. 8, the Illinois State Board of Education only has records of the anticipated value of tuition costs as provided by scholarship recipients on their waiver of confidentiality forms. As a result, you have indicated that you will not need the 848 pages of waivers that are responsive to your request. We recommend that you contact the schools directly to determine the value of tuition waivers as no master list of tuition values for scholarship recipients exists.

Request 2 – “I am also asking for a breakdown of what exactly the scholarship money pays for. Does it cover room and board, books, tuition, extra spending money? I am requesting a break down or definition of what the legislative scholarships pays for.”

Response 2 – According to the School Code (105 ILCS 5/30-13) (from Ch. 122, par. 30-13), “Unless otherwise indicated, these scholarships shall be good for a period of not more than 4 years while enrolled for residence credit and shall exempt the holder from the payment of tuition, or any matriculation, graduation, activity, term or incidental fee, except any portion of a multipurpose fee which is used for a purpose for which exemption is not granted under this Section. Exemption shall not be granted from any other fees, including book rental, service, laboratory, supply, union building, hospital and medical insurance fees and any fees established for the operation and maintenance of buildings, the income of which is pledged to the payment of interest and principal on bonds issued by
the governing board of any university or community college.”

Request 3 - The total dollar costs of legislative scholarships per person for the following Senate districts: 11, 15, 18, 19, 40, 41.

Response 3 – See Response 1

Response 4 - I am also requesting a copy of a list of all Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarships awarded from January 2007 through January 2012 by the legislators in the following House district: 86.

Response 4 - Excel spreadsheets that contain information about General Assembly Scholarship recipients from 2001 to present may be found at http://www.isbe.net/foia/default.htm.
Note the light blue chart titled FY 2012.
The first column is labeled “Log #.”
Scroll down to number 12-060.
The far right column contains a link to two Excel file files. One file is for members of the Illinois House, while the other is for members of the Illinois Senate.

Request 5 - “I'm also requesting a copy of a list of all Illinois General Assembly Legislative Scholarships awarded from January 2007 through January 2012 by legislators in the following Senate district: 43.”

Response 5 – See Response 4.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information