March 5, 2012

Lise McKean
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Dr. McKean:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Feb. 27.

You have requested the citation(s) for the research data that is the basis for a statement in the ESEA Waiver that was approved on Feb. 21, 2012 by the Illinois State Board of Education for submission to the U.S. Department of Education: "Licensing of teachers with a high mastery of content and pedagogy. In September 2010, Illinois raised the cut score on the basic skills test for mastery in content so that the state moved from admitting teacher candidates from the lower half of college attendees to the top third of those attending college."

The attached document (12-260-mckean-doc.pptx) is provided in response to your request.

Also, please see the “Summary of Aggregate Examinee Performance; September 2010 to July 2011” posted at: http://www.isbe.net/certification/pcl/ril_admin_passrates_1011.pdf. The summary states that 28 percent of examinees passed all four subtests the first time and the cumulative pass rate for all four tests was 41 percent. Before the cut score was revised, the pass rate was between 85 and 86 percent.

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

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment