March 7, 2012

Diane Rado
Chicago Tribune
3 Westbrook Corporate Center
Suite 800
Westchester, Illinois 60154

Dear Ms. Rado:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request. Your request was received on Jan. 3, 2012.

After a Jan. 18 phone conversation with ISBE’s Matt Vanover, you agreed to narrow your request to include any records related to the 124 total ISAT incidents reported in 2010 and the 83 total ISAT incidents reported in 2011 as well as any records related to incidents of irregularities reported in connection with the PSAE in 2010 and 2011.

In a letter dated Feb. 1, we requested additional time to process your request.

The attached documents (12-181-rado-doc1.pdf through 12-181-rado-doc4.pdf) are the Schools Under Investigation lists that ISBE received from ACT for Day 1 of the PSAE for 2010 and 2011. The “accommodation” list for each year indicates testing administrations where students with an IEP, Section 504 Plan or Limited English Proficiency may use appropriate accommodations.

Records of incidents related to the 2010 and 2011 ISAT and PSAE Day 2 are available for pickup at our Chicago office at 100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-300. Please contact Mary Fergus at (312) 814-1614 to arrange a time. The documents fill two boxes.

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (d) (ii), some documents are being withheld or redacted as their release would interfere with active administrative enforcement proceedings. They are associated with open cases related to potential certification actions.

Also note that certain preliminary and draft documents have been identified that we consider to be exempt from disclosure. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (f), documents that the agency believes fall under this exemption are currently being withheld.

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (j) (i), test questions and other examination data used to administer an academic examination are currently being withheld.

Additionally, student names and identifying information have been redacted pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a).
If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel