July 2, 2011

Freedom of Information Office
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
ATTN: FOIA Request

Email: FOIA@isbe.net

FOIA Officer Vanover:

The following information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act.

The following is a brief description of the records being sought. Your website suggested that I be as specific as possible.

1. In searching the Education Resources Information Center's website (www.eric.ed.gov) as part of a research report I am writing for a college course, I located a 1983 Illinois State Board of Education publication entitled "Illinois Public School Finance Project / A Comprehensive System for Financing Illinois Public Education / The Report of the Technical Advisory Panel". Within "Exhibit C" of the publication, a list of 21 individual staff reports on various subjects is listed. On page 33, it is stated that "Copies of individual staff reports can be obtained by the State Board of Education."

This request is for four of those staff reports under the heading "Management of Resources": 
- #5) Obstacles to school district reorganization in Illinois Public School Districts,
- #2) A reasoned basis for taxing authority,
- #3) Impacts and implications of enrollment change and inflation on public school revenues expenditures, and
- #11) Indicators of fiscal crisis.

2. Also located as part of my search was an article in The Bond Buyer announcing the mid-February 1995 release by State Superintendent Spagnolo of the 1994 "Financial Watch List" -- which identified school districts whose year-end fund balances were less than 5% of their annual revenues. Within the article, the 1993 $427 million bond issue of noncapital school bonds sold by the Chicago School Finance Authority to cover the gap in CPS's operating budgets through 1995 is discussed. Parts of the prepared statements of both Superintendent Spagnolo and Assistant Superintendent for School Finance Gary Ey that accompanied the February 1995 release of the 1994 Watch List are quoted in the article. This request is for a copy of the 1994 "Financial Watch List" released by Mr. Spagnolo in mid-February 1995 as well as all prepared remarks/tables/charts/etc authored by either Mr. Spagnolo or Mr. Ey that accompanied the release.

If the above requests are not specific enough for you to locate the documents, please send me a note and I will attempt to provide more detail.
Also, your website states that your response can be provided via e-mail. I would like to accept that offer and have the documents forwarded to me via my e-mail address. My e-mail address is [REDACTED]

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicky Greene