Re: Freedom of Information Act Request for Records for State Academic Assessment Contracts

Dear Mr. Vanover:

My colleagues and I at the Brookings Institution’s Brown Center on Education Policy, with support from the Lumina Foundation, are researching the costs associated with current and future assessment systems. Our project will identify and quantify the leading drivers of assessment costs and develop a practical framework for predicting and analyzing these costs. In order to carry out this research, we’re compiling cost data from state contracts with testing vendors. Specifically, we are gathering copies of the contracts between states and their testing vendors for the last few years.

After requesting this contract data directly from Jim Palmer—Division of Student Assessment Interim Administrator—he suggested that we directly obtain the contract documents through a formal Freedom of Information Act request.

Under the provisions of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140), I hereby request a copy of records or portions thereof pertaining to (or containing the following):

- All academic assessment contracts related to state testing, including but not limited to state math and reading/English language arts tests. Please send all contracts pertaining to the school years 2007-08 through 2012-13.

I understand there is a fee of $.15 per page for duplication of the records requested, beyond the initial 50 pages. Digital scans of files are preferred to hard copies, if at all possible. If the fee exceeds $100, please contact me before duplicating the records.

As you know, the Freedom of Information Act requires that an agency respond to a request within five business days of receipt of a request. Therefore, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

If for any reason any portion of my request is denied, please inform me of the reasons for the denial in writing and provide the name and address of the person or body to whom an appeal should be directed.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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