July 5, 2012

David Jackson and Gary Marx
The Chicago Tribune

Dear Mr. Jackson and Mr. Marx:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on June 18, 2012.

On June 25, our agency requested a five-day extension until July 2.

You have requested from Illinois’ student tracking databases, including SIS, the count of students in each category of exit type code by grade for Chicago Public Schools and the state for each school year since 1999-2000. Additionally, you seek records showing any applicable definitions of these codes.

Per your conversation on July 2 with ISBE’s Amanda Simhauser, you have decided to drop the years 1999-2000 through 2007-2008 from your request. Our agency also requested additional time to process your request.

The attached document (12-411-jacksonmarx-doc.xlsx) is provided in response to your request.

Please note that cell sizes of less than 10 in each file have been redacted, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a). Additionally, cell sizes of 10 or more are suppressed when disclosure would indirectly reveal cell sizes of less than 10. Even in the absence of disclosing student names, small group sizes could reveal student identities.

The exit codes and their definitions may be found at http://www.isbe.state.il.us/sis/html/data_elements.htm under the “Exit Enrollment” link. The race codes may be found at the same address under the “Demographics/Enrollment” link for 2011 and on. Race codes for 2009 and 2010 are found under the “Archive “link.

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

Sincerely,
Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment