Dear FOIA Response Director:

This is a request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140. On behalf of the Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA), I request that a copy of all public documents be collected and sent back to me electronically no later than Friday, March 31, 2012, or as required by law, Wednesday April 4, 2012, on the following items listed on the bottom of this request.

I understand that the Act permits a public body to charge a reasonable copying fee not to exceed the actual cost of reproduction and not including the costs of any search or review of the records. I would like to obtain, however, ONLY an electronic copy of these records and, since we are a non-for-profit Illinois organization, I further request a waiver of all fees associated with any duplication that your office might incur. If this is not possible, please contact me by email or phone as listed below.

Disclosure of the requested information to me is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the safety and public understanding of how the Pecatonica CUSD #321 Board of Education intends to use public state reimbursement, student fees, and district homeowner property taxes to provide Driver Education to Pecatonica eligible students by contracting out with an ISOS licensed commercial driver training school in order to save money.

1. What is the total yearly budget for Pecatonica High School for each of fiscal years 2009-10; 2010-11; and 2011-12, respectively?

2. What is the total yearly budget for Driver Education for each of those same fiscal years?

3. What is the total amount of state reimbursement for Driver Education for each of those same fiscal years?

4. What is the total amount of student fees gathered for Driver Education for each of those same fiscal years?

5. How many student fees for Driver Education were “waived” for each of those same fiscal years due to a student that met the state “free and reduced lunch” requirements?

6. What is the “property tax revenue” dollar amount that the Pecatonica School District has calculated for each class per credit hour? In other words, if a Math class is a (4) credit hour class, what is the average dollar amount generated from property taxes that the Pecatonica School District CUSD #321 uses to pay for that class (per credit hour)?

I look forward to hearing from you in writing within five business days, as required by the Act. 5 ILCS 140(3).
7. Provide a list of all student fees that are paid by Pecatonica students and their parents for all courses including athletics and extracurricular activities. Please list the “highest” student fee and what that fee is being used for, down to the “least” amount.

8. Out of the total (100%) of the overall Pecatonica High School budget, what percent does Driver Education make up of that overall 100% budget in each of the fiscal years listed above (2009-10; 2010-11; and 2011-12)?

9. What is the average “mean” cost of a typical house in the Pecatonica School District CUSD #321?

10. Based on the equalized assessed valuation of the average cost of a house in the Pecatonica School District boundaries, if Driver Education is contracted out to a commercial driver training school, how much money would be rebated to each household in the district? In other words, how much money would be rebated to homeowners based on every hundred thousand dollars that a home is worth? Please give these 3 examples:
   1. A homeowner owning a residence worth $100k would be rebated “X” amount
   2. A homeowner owning a residence worth $200k would be rebated “X” amount
   3. A homeowner owning a residence worth $300k would be rebated “X” amount

11. How does Pecatonica CUSD #321 plan on notifying homeowners when and how this rebate of property taxes will take place?

12. What will it cost Pecatonica CUSD #321 to contract out the “classroom phase” of driver education to a commercial driver training school?

13. Please provide an itemized list of all pertinent costs of the commercial driver training school that is being used for contracting out the classroom phase of driver education. Please separate instructor salaries, benefits, and owner profits from other costs.

14. What will it cost Pecatonica CUSD #321 to contract out the “driving phase” of driver education to a commercial driver training school?

15. Please provide an itemized list of all pertinent costs of the commercial driver training school that is being used for contracting out the driving phase of driver education. Please separate instructor salaries, benefits, and owner profits from other costs.

16. If Pecatonica CUSD #321 elects to contract out driver education to a commercial driver training school, what will be the student fee charged to each student and their parents?

17. What criteria were used by the Pecatonica School District CUSD #321 staff to determine what the student fee for driver education should be when the district considered contracting out the state mandated driver education course to a commercial driver training school?

18. Please provide a detailed cost analysis of how much money Pecatonica School District CUSD #321 will save by contracting out driver education to a commercial driver training school.

19. Please provide a copy of the classroom and driving curriculums including all learner outcomes that students will be taught under if Pecatonica School District CUSD #321 contracts driver education with a commercial driver training school.

20. Please provide all proposals between Pecatonica School District CUSD #321 and all commercial driver training schools including the name of each commercial driver school for the purpose of contracting out driver education with the school district.

21. Please provide a copy of any contract that is being considered between Pecatonica CUSD #321 and any commercial driver training school for the purpose of meeting the state mandate to provide driver education to district students.

22. Please provide all letters, emails, and any other written correspondence between all Pecatonica CUSD #321 administrators, including staff members, and (A) any commercial driver training school owners, administrators, or employees, (B) ISBE administrators or staff, and (C) Illinois Secretary of State (ISOS) personnel with regard to contracting out driver education to a commercial driver training school.

I look forward to hearing from you in writing within five business days, as required by the Act. 5 ILCS 140(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

James Archambeau
President Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association
10021 S. Oakley
Chicago, Illinois  60643