March 21, 2012

Mr. Matt Vanover
FOIA Officer
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-001

RE: FOIA Requests for Review – 2012 PAC 18858, 18859, 18860, 18862

Dear Mr. Vanover:

The Public Access Bureau has received four Requests for Review from Mr. [#], pursuant to section 9.5 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/9.5 (West 2010), as amended by Public Act 97-579, effective August 26, 2011) regarding the Illinois State Board of Education’s response to his FOIA requests. Enclosed for your information are copies of Mr. [#]’s FOIA requests and his Requests for Review. These four Requests for Review have been consolidated for convenience.

On March 1, 2012, Mr. [#] submitted FOIA requests for the following:


- all IEPs developed to incorporate the orders of the hearing officer for ** Case No. 2008-132 in the matter of T.G. v. Midland School District.

- all documents in regards to ** T.G. and Midland CUSD 7, ISBE Case No. 2012-0051.

On March 2, 2012, Mr. [#] requested “the written decision of January 23, 2012,” made by Hearing Officer Lynette Lewis, referred to in an attached e-mail.
In his Request for Review, Mr.-states that he has received no response to these requests. Additionally, he states that the Board may not have received his requests because it has blocked e-mail coming from Based on these statements, we have determined that further inquiry is warranted in this matter. See 5 ILCS 140/9.5(c) (West 2010), as amended by Public Act 97-579, effective August 26, 2011. Please inform us of the Board's receipt and handling of these FOIA requests, and please forward to us a copy of any letters sent to Mr. in response to these requests.

As required under FOIA, please provide this information to our office within seven (7) business days after you receive this letter. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(c) (West 2010), as amended by Public Act 97-579, effective August 26, 2011. As we review this matter, we will advise you if we require additional information. If you believe that other documents or information would help us during our review, you may submit additional records or affidavits with the requested information.

Please note that, under FOIA, we are required to forward a copy of any response from a public body to the requester and provide the requester with an opportunity to reply. The Act provides, however, that "[t]o the extent that records or documents produced by a public body contain information that is claimed to be exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of [the] Act, the Public Access Counselor shall not further disclose that information." Section 9.5(d) also requires that we redact "any alleged confidential information to which the request pertains" when providing a copy of your written response to the requester. If your response contains information or documents you believe are confidential, you must clearly identify that specific information in your response.

Please contact me at (312) 814-2086 if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

SARAH KAPLAN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

Enclosure

cc:  Via Electronic Mail
     Mr. (will receive letter only)