May 21, 2012  

David Jackson  
The Chicago Tribune

Dear Mr. Jackson:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on May 7.

You have requested updated figures for the count of grade K-12 dropouts by grade, race and gender for the state and Chicago from 2008-2009 through the most recent year available. You additionally seek the count of K-12 graders listed as chronically truant by grade, race and gender for both Chicago and the state for the most recent ten complete years.

On May 14, our agency sought a five-day extension until May 21.

The attached documents, 12-356-jackson-doc1.xlsx through 12-356-jackson-doc6.xlsx, provide dropout data for Chicago Public Schools and the state, respectively, broken down by gender and race/ethnicity for the school years requested.

The attached document, 12-356-jackson-doc7.xlsx, shows the number of chronic truants for Chicago Public Schools and the state from 2001-2002 through the 2010-2011 school years. Our agency collects truancy at the school level, and the only student identifier provided is gender. Therefore, we have no data on individual grades and race/ethnicity categories for chronic truancy.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover  
Director of Public Information

Attachments