May 30, 2012  
[djackson@tribune.com]

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 15, 2012.

On May 22, our agency sought a five-day extension until May 30.

You have requested the following student attendance data from the 2010-2011 school year for Chicago and the state, for each grade from K through 12 and for each of six special education disability categories:

*Request 1: Pupils with each of those disabilities by grade.*

Response 1: The attached document, 12-365-jackson-doc1.xlsx, provides a breakdown of pupils by disability and grade level for the state and Chicago public schools. Please note that the disability categories requested do not align exactly with the disabilities that our agency collects.

*Request 2: Truant pupils with each disability by grade.*

Response 2: Truancy is collected at the school level only, and the lone student identifier provided is gender.

*Request 3: Chronic truants with each disability by grade.*

Response 3: Chronic truancy is collected at the school level only, and the lone student identifier provided is gender.

*Request 4: Drop-outs with each disability by grade.*

Response 4: The attached document, 12-365-jackson-doc1.xlsx, provides drop-out figures for the state and CPS broken down by disability and grade level. Please note that the definition of “dropped out” used is the same for federal reporting requirements. Under the federal reporting requirements, the following situations are counted as “dropped out”:

- Dropped out (age 17 or older)
- Moved out of district; unknown if in another district
- Completed the requirements for a GED
- Ran away from home.

Request 5: Expelled pupils with each disability by grade.

Response 5: The attached document, 12-365-jackson-doc2.xlsx, provides expulsion counts by disability for the state and CPS. Please note that a breakdown by grade level has not been provided as the figures in each cell are less than 10. Cell sizes of less than 10 are redacted pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1)(a). Even in the absence of disclosing student names, small group sizes could reveal student identities.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachments