May 30, 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 21, 2012.

You have requested documents related to public records on the Truants’ Alternative and Optional Educational Programs (TAOEP).

On May 29, our agency requested a five-day extension until June 5.

Our response is as follows:

Request 1: Please allow us to examine and if necessary copy all of the 72 FY 2012 TAOEP proposals or applications that were funded. Please allow us to see the original applications, including all attachments and any Mid-Year Reports.

Response 1: Per your conversation with Amanda Simhauser, these files are available for review on Wednesday, June 6, in our Springfield office at 100 N. First St. Please note that documents may be reviewed until 4 p.m.

Request 2: For CPS, please allow us to examine and if necessary copy the most recent TAOEP proposal (for FY 2013, submitted in response to State Supt. Koch’s March 2012 RFP and due no later than 5pm on April 20, 2012) as well as the applications for FYs 2009, 2010 and 2011, if those applications have been retained by ISBE and can be produced. Please allow us to see the original applications, including all attachments and any Mid-Year Reports.

Response 2: These files are also available for review at our Springfield office. Please note that there are no CPS applications for fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011. The CPS portion of TAOEP is part of the CPS Block Grant. The General Assembly passed a bill two years ago that requires CPS to submit the same documentation for Block Grant funds as other grantees must submit. Therefore, there are only applications for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Request 3: Copies of all correspondence between ISBE and CPS since Jan. 1, 2009 pertaining to Chicago’s TAOEP applications and funding, including emails, memorandums, audits or reviews, etc.
Response 3: The attached document (12-375-jackson-doc.pdf) is provided in response to your request. The document includes four one-page memos that accompany the Block Grant calculations for CPS.

Request 4: Records detailing the 72 programs funded with a total of $14,059,000 in FY 2012. We expect that releasable records will show: each program or entity funded, and the dollar amount of the funding.

Response 4: The requested information is included in the files available for review on June 6.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachment