As you know, under Section 2-3.66 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66), the State Board of Education provide grants for the establishment of Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Programs (TAOEP). During FY 2012, the grant award was $14,059,000 and 72 programs were funded. Eligible entities were required to submit applications for TAOEP funding.

THANK YOU for accepting this request for public records on the TAOEP program:

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. We would be happy to review those in your offices in Springfield or Chicago, and make copies of any pages needed.

2. For the Chicago Public Schools, 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. We would be happy to review those in your offices in Springfield or Chicago, and make copies of any pages needed.

3. Please provide copies of all correspondence between ISBE and Chicago Public Schools since January 1, 2009 pertaining to Chicago’s TAOEP applications and funding, including emails, memorandums, audits or reviews, &c.

4. Please provide 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.

We realize this is a four-part request asking for voluminous documents, and therefore stand ready to work with ISBE staff to minimize the burden this FOIA request may place on the agency and to expedite release of salient public data, and so would consider tailoring this request if any part of it places a special or time-consuming burden on ISBE staff. We will gladly accept parts of this request as they can be produced, if that is possible.

We hereby affirm and stipulate that we will not use any data provided by ISBE in response to this FOIA as a basis to search for or to identify individual students, in either our newsgathering or in publication.

This request is in the public interest and we are grateful for anything you can do to expedite it. We hereby request a fee waiver as we are a daily newspaper publishing factual data about matters of intense public interest.

Please contact me immediately if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way, at 312-222-5569 or dyjackson@tribune.com.

Sincerely,

David Jackson