This is a Freedom of Information Act request for public records pertaining to teacher certification and service in Illinois. Here at the University of Illinois at Chicago, we graduate around 300 teachers per year and typically 80% of them get jobs as teachers the next year. But the past two years have been hard on our graduates. Data from the Teacher Service Record (TSR) via the Teacher Data Warehouse (TDW) has shown that only 40% of our graduates got public school teaching jobs in 2008-09 and only 30% in 2009-2010.

We are very concerned about this trend and realize that it may be completely due to the downturn in the economy. However, we would like to dig into the data to see if there are relative shifts in hiring patterns so that we can inform our students, our advisors and, in general, the Chicago area teacher preparation community that we belong to.

To study hiring patterns we need to know how many people were certified and from which institutions. We also need to know who was hired and where. And, ideally, these two bits of information would be keyed together. From our own slice of the Teacher Certification Record and the Teacher Service Record that has been provided to us by the TDW, we have pieced together what we would like:

1) A public version of the Certification Record going as far back in time as possible
   a. Some sort of certification ID to key to the TSR
   b. Certifying institution information
      i. Name
      ii. Location – particularly the state for out of state institutions
      iii. any other identifiers like public/private
   c. Certificate type
   d. Year certified
   e. Flags for endorsements – if easily added

2) The full public TSR going as far back in time as possible
   a. With the addition of the certification ID so we know where the teacher was certified.
   b. Any additional information for people who are not in the certification record as to why they don't have a certificate.
   c. The year field

We can work with files of most types: Excel, .csv, Access, mySQL dump.

Let me know if you need more details. Contact me by phone at or by email at droarty@uic.edu. Postal mailing address: , Oak Park, IL 60302

Thanks very much for your support.

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