Rec’d 8/22/2012

Ms. Simhauser:

THANK YOU and your colleagues for ISBE’s work to provide public records on Illinois students.

Under the FOIA and all applicable public records laws, we seek the following student-level data from SIS:

For the 2010-2011 school year, for each pupil in grades K-8, please provide data showing that pupil's:
- Grade
- School district
  - "Enrollment/Entry Type Code"
  - "Enrollment/Entry Date"
  - "Exit Enrollment Type Code"
- The following Exit Enrollment data elements if applicable: Enrollment Exit Date; Enrollment Exit Status; Enrollment Exit/Withdrawal Type.

* We 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.

* The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) enables ISBE to disclose student-level information as long as the released data does not include a list of personal characteristics or other information that would make a student’s identity easily traceable. We ask that ISBE notify us about any potential FERPA problem so that we can modify the request.

* We are confident that this request de-identifies students by omitting numerous data fields that represent student-level characteristics. In addition, 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 both our newsgathering or in publication.

* We ask that, if at all possible, you provide the requested data in electronic format, ideally as a spreadsheet.

This request is in the public interest and we are grateful for anything you can do to expedite it. Please contact me immediately if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

David Jackson
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The Chicago Tribune
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