Rec’d 2/14/2013

Mr. Vanover, Ms. Simhauser and Ms. Fergus,

This letter is in response to your Feb. 13 letter and includes a new FOIA request submitted by the Tribune.

Please be aware that the Tribune understands that your agency would not disclose a child’s name included in a DCFS notice. We assumed that any name or identifying information about a child would be redacted from records provided.

We disagree that notices provided by DCFS to your agency cannot be disclosed – even in redacted form -- by the Illinois State Department of Education and we are considering our options on filing an appeal with the Attorney General.

Meanwhile, we are requesting the following data and information from any and all documents, records, spreadsheets or databases that would be responsive:

/GThe number of DCFS notifications received by ISBE, by year, for at least the last 10 years. If 15 or 20 years is available, please provide that data, so we can analyze trends. By notifications, we mean the DCFS notifications of indicated reports of abuse and/or neglect in which school personnel are identified as the perpetrator.
/GThe number of DCFS notifications, by school and school district, by year, for at least the last 10 years.
/GThe number of DCFS notifications, by type of school personnel, i.e., teacher, principal, substitute, paraprofessional, by year, for at least the last 10 years.
/GThe number of DCFS notifications that led to ISBE investigations/certification cases, by year, for at least the last 10 years.
/GThe number of DCFS notifications that were referred for criminal prosecution, for at least the last 10 years.
/GPolicies and procedures related to how ISBE handles DCFS notifications, including how decisions are made to pursue – or not pursue – cases related to the notifications.
/GAny letters, memos or other records – even a notation in a spreadsheet - showing that a DCFS notification has not been pursued by ISBE.
/GThe names and titles of ISBE employees who work full or part-time tracking, handling, and pursuing cases related to DCFS notifications.
/GThe field layout or schema used to manage the system of DCFS notifications at ISBE.

If you have questions, please contact us as soon as possible.

We request a waiver of any fees because we believe this request will serve the best interests of the public and will primarily benefit the public at large.

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