Feb. 8, 2013

Linda Wegner

Dear Ms. Wegner:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Jan. 28, 2013.

On Feb. 4, our agency requested a five-day extension until Feb. 11.

You have requested the following information:

Request 1: How many new teachers were certified last year in Illinois?

Response 1: In Fiscal Year 2012, 12,063 initial certificates were issued.

Request 2: How many of those were Ethnic Minority certificants?

Response 2: In Fiscal Year 2012, 1,019 initial certificates were issued to minority or non-white applicants.

Request 3: How many of the Ethnic Minority new teachers were from alternative certification?

Response 3: In Fiscal Year 2012, 112 initial alternative certificates were issued to minority or non-white applicants.

Request 4: How many of the Ethnic Minority new teachers were TFA candidates?

Response 4: The attached document, 13-202-wegner-doc.pdf, is provided in response to this request.

Request 5: How many graduated from Illinois Colleges of Education?

Response 5: All of the initial certificates issued are from Illinois-approved institutions.

Request 6: What rationale keeps Illinois from not using PRAXIS as 2/3 of all states do?
Response 6: Please note that as an open records law, FOIA is a method through which individuals seek access to documents. It is not intended to serve as a way to obtain answers to questions. However, in the spirit of cooperation, we can tell you that we have elected to stay with our current contract because many of our tests are unique to Illinois as the tests assess Illinois standards as well as national standards.

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

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment