July 9, 2012

David Jackson and Gary Marx
The Chicago Tribune

Dear Mr. Jackson and Mr. Marx:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on July 9, 2012.

You have requested copies of the General State Aid claim files, records and documents submitted by City of Chicago SD 299 for each of the last two years for which the GSA claim was submitted by Chicago.

The information you seek is available in the GSA Inquiry on our website at http://webprod1.isbe.net/gsainquiry/default.aspx.

On the inquiry page, CPS 299 is listed as City of Chicago School Dist 299. If you sort by District Code, CPS is coded as 15-016-2990-25-0000.

Districts submit their calendar and attendance data electronically through IWAS. This data may be viewed in the first two reports, Claimable Days of Attendance by Grade and Claimable Average Daily Attendance and Calendar Data, both listed at the GSA Inquiry page. These reports constitute the claim.

On the same page, you may view the Calculation of Entitlement, which lists all calculation data and the resulting claim amounts for a given year. The most recent claim available is the 2010-2011 Calculation of Entitlement Payable in FY 12. Due to the fact that the appropriated funds available to pay GSA in each of the past two fiscal years have been less than the statewide claim, we have prorated payments to districts. The Payment Schedule report compares the claim amount to what was actually paid in a fiscal year.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information