BY EMAIL ONLY

December 23, 2013

Freedom of Information Office
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777
BY EMAIL: foia@isbe.net

ATTN: FOIA Request

RE: Tomorrow’s Builders YouthBuild Charter School

Dear Sir or Ms.:

I am the attorney for Tomorrow’s Builders YouthBuild Charter School (“TBYCS”). On the school’s behalf, this is a request for public records regarding the Dec. 17, 2013 decision of Dr. Christopher Koch, Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education, to not certify and to close TBYCS effective at the conclusion of the current school year.

Records in electronic format are preferable. TBYCS is a nonprofit entity and this request is not for a commercial purpose. I request a fee waiver of fees for copies of public records as this request serves the public interest in allowing TBYCS, its students, parents and supporters to ascertain the reasons which support the foregoing recommendation of Dr. Koch. If a fee waiver is not granted, my firm will pay the reasonable copying fees for the records upon request.

Please produce the requested records at your earliest convenience so that TBYCS will have an adequate opportunity to review them in advance of the next meeting of the Illinois State Board of Education on Jan. 22-23, 2014.
The specific records requested are only those which show, suggest or infer noncompliance with Illinois Charter School Law as indicated in Dr. Koch’s Dec. 17th letter. The terms “record” or “document” include electronically stored information. The terms include, without limitation, any written material, whether typed, handwritten, printed or otherwise, and whether in draft or final form, of any kind or nature, or any photograph, photostat, microfilm or other reproduction thereof, including, without limitation, each note, memorandum, letter, telegram, telex, circular, release, article, report, prospectus, memorandum of any telephone or in-person conversation, any financial statement, analysis, drawing, graph, chart, account, book, notebook, draft, summary, diary, transcript, computer data base, computer printout or other computer-generated matter, contract or order, technical report, laboratory report or notebook, engineering report, and all mechanical and electronic audio and video recordings or transcripts thereof, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and translated, if necessary, by the Illinois State Board of Education into reasonably usable form. Electronic mail is included within the definition of the terms “record” and “documents.” A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of these terms.

The requested records and documents are the following:

a) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which indicate that the terms of the TBYCS charter are not economically sound;

b) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which indicate that TBYCS lacks a viable education plan to drive successful student outcomes;

c) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which indicate that TBYCS failed to comply with teacher qualification requirements applicable to all charter schools;

d) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which indicate that TBYCS failed to maintain accurate records of student enrollment and attendance;

e) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which indicate that TBYCS failed to comply with state and federal laws and regulations applicable to students with disabilities;

f) For the period July 1, 2011 to the present, all records and documents which show “repeated violations of the conditions, standards and procedures set forth in the charter agreement and accountability plan,” as indicated in Dr. Koch’s Dec. 17th letter;
g) For the period July 1, 2011, all records and documents from Dr. Arthur Culver or any administrator of East St. Louis School District No. 189 pertaining to or regarding the revocation or non-renewal of the TBYCS charter school agreement.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please call immediately if you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter.

Yours truly,

[Redacted]

Thomas E. Kennedy, III

Cc: Vickie Kimmel Forby