Rec’d 1/24/2014

Amanda, Mary,

This is a request under Illinois’ Freedom of Information Act.

As we’ve discussed several times in the past, I would like to get data about student course assignments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science over a three-year period for each student moving through public school in 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

The idea is to track course rigor as a student moves through high school, culminating with that student taking the ACT junior year.

The period of time would range from 2010-11 (9th grade) to 2011-12 (10th grade), to 2012-13 (11th grade, when the student takes the ACT as part of the Prairie State Exam).

I am requesting 3 separate spreadsheets, for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

Each spreadsheet would contain what I think would be 160,000 or so students who take a main, full-year required ELA, Math and Science course in 9th, 10th and 11th grades. This is the information I would need for each of the spreadsheets:

/An identifier for each student (maybe an ID of some kind that would in no way identify this student by name, but would be used to make sure I am tracking the same student, all 3 years).
/Student race
/Student gender
/Student free& reduced lunch status
/Name of School (if the student transfers to a new school over the 3 year period, that would somehow have to be included or noted)
/Name of District
/School Year
/School Term/Semester
/State Course Code
/Local Course ID
/Local Course Title
/Course Level
/Course Final Letter Grade

I would need this information for all three years for the same student, so I can track if the student, for example, moved up from a remedial math class in 9th grade to a general or enriched class in that subject in 10th grade. Following the last year (11th) grade, I am requesting the student’s ACT scores during spring 2013 Prairie State Testing, for each subject as well as the composite score.

If a student drops out or transfers to another school, please note that and leave the info blank for the year when a student is no longer attending. In other words, please don’t eliminate the student entirely from the data if you don’t have all three consecutive years of information.

If you have questions, please contact me by email or phone.
I request a waiver of any fees because the information is of public interest.

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