April 30, 2013

Dr. Grenita Lathan
Superintendent
Peoria Public Schools
3202 N. Wisconsin Ave.
Peoria, IL  61603

Dear Superintendent Lathan:

This letter is regarding the testing irregularity that occurred at Harrison School in the administration of the 2013 ISAT (grade 8). ISBE has determined that the ISAT results will be reported for your students, the school, and the district.

[Redacted] affected will not receive ISAT results on the Individual Student reports (ISRs) for reading and mathematics. Rather, [Redacted] will receive an NA (not available) on the ISR in place of ISAT reading and mathematics scores. No ISAT reading and mathematics results will appear for [Redacted] on the ISAT School Rosters or the Student Data Disk. All other students will receive ISAT results as usual.

For the school and district the following will occur, the reading, mathematics, and science results on the ISAT reports will be based on the remaining ISAT scores. The reading, mathematics, and science results on the School Report Card will be based on the remaining ISAT scores. The AYP calculations for the school and district will be based on the remaining reading and mathematics scores.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 217.782.4823.

Sincerely,  
[Redacted]

James Palmer
Principal Consultant
Student Assessment Division
I am sorry, I was in my original packet that was mailed. It was only

From: PALMER JAMES [mailto:JPALMER@isbe.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 10:43 AM
To: TIM DEUNSKI
Subject: Test Misadministration - Harrison

Tim,

For the report that was submitted for Harrison Elementary, we need [redacted] for the students that were affected by the misadministration. Please see the document attached for [redacted] we are requesting.

Regards,

Jim Palmer
Principal Consultant
Division of Student Assessment
Illinois State Board of Education
Email: jpalmer@isbe.net
Phone: (866) 317-6034
Web: http://www.isbe.net/assessment

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March 19, 2013

Illinois State Board of Education  
Attn: Jim Palmer, Principal Consultant  
Division of Student Assessment  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

Mr. Palmer:

Tim Delinski, Instructional Improvement Officer, notified my office of a possible ISAT testing irregularity. Please review the attached written narrative of the event and notify the District of the outcome at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Grenita F. Lathan  
Superintendent

Attachment
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Grenita Lathan, Superintendent

From: Tim Delinski

Date: March 14, 2013

RE: Harrison ISAT Misadministration

On Friday, March 8, 2013 Bryan Devine, District Testing Team Member, reported to me via email that there was a possible misadministration of the ISAT test at Harrison school. Concerns over the manner in which Anna Alvarez, Harrison Interventionist, had conducted the administration of tests were raised by another teacher who witnessed the administration.

In the statement made by Anna Alvarez, she admitted that she had assisted in the test administration by interpreting and reading the questions, during the Reading-Session 1 and Math-Session 1 subtests. When questioned further, she stated that when she gave the to she was instructed to assist and interpret those questions. She also said that she made the assumption, to assist utilizing the same guidelines, when administering the versions of the ISAT, even though the instructions read differently. She did not ask for additional clarification.

There is documentation that Anna Alvarez attended an ISAT Test Administration Professional Development on Friday, March 1st. She had also signed the Test Security Agreement required of all test administrators in Peoria Public Schools.

Although the staff of Harrison Elementary attended the Test Administration Professional Development and the Professional Testing Practices for Educators (ISBE-2013) was covered, the Principal neglected to disseminate the non-secured, testing instruction manuals as required by our District. This action would have given teachers additional time to prepare for test administration.

The action taken by Anna Alvarez is clearly a violation of Professional Testing Practices for Educators. Under the Standard Operating Procedures for Investigation of Alleged Test Irregularities on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA), under the Violations of Test Security or Test Procedures (Rev. 2/10), Section B, 5.5, “teachers, test administrators, or others deviating from instructions in the test administration or coordinators manuals or Professional Practices for Educators in ways not authorized by ISBE’s Student Assessment Division; “

In discussions with the Union, it is their contention that none of the teachers received their testing instruction manuals until the day they tested their children, which created this event. And although Harrison has a veteran staff, some individuals were asked to test children w/o prior testing experience in some specific areas. In the
circumstances involving Anna Alvarez, an Interventionist, she made an assumption based on previous testing practices allowed in the District. This was an isolated incident and Anna Alvarez’s violation.

It is my opinion that the Principal, Mrs. Veralee Smith and teacher, Anna Alvarez, did not follow District and State protocols for standardized administration. In summary, I feel that the Principal’s lack of implementation of the District’s required procedures and lack of quality test supervision were unacceptable. Based on the admissions of both parties, I would recommend that the Principal and the teacher be given a letter of reprimand for violating testing procedures.