Rec’d 5/19/2014

From: Jackson, David [mailto:dyjackson@tribune.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:18 AM
To: FERGUS MARY; SIMHAUSER AMANDA R.
Subject: Chicago Tribune FOIA request

THANK YOU for accepting this request for information filed under the Freedom of Information Act and all applicable open records laws.

In the past, ISBE has provided the Tribune with statistical data showing the count of students placed in out-of-state residential schools (sometimes called therapeutic boarding schools):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISBE Residential Only-District Payee*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Records-Residential-Out of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2008-09: 139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2009-10: 188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2010-11: 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2011-12: 216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2012-13: 269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY2013-14 est’ed: 304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Duplicated student approval count (i.e. same student may have moved in and out of various facilities throughout the year)

Under this request, I now ask ISBE to provide more detailed data on those student placements. If possible, I ask that ISBE please provide aggregated data for all years since 2008-09 showing:

-- the names and addresses of all those out-of-state facilities;
-- the total number of unique (or unduplicated) students placed in each facility since 2008-09;
-- the total ISBE dollar amount spent at each facility;
-- the total district dollar amount spent at each facility, if known;

I understand that FOIA laws do not require ISBE to perform calculations or create documents, but make this request because accurate and timely information is vital on a topic of public importance. Out-of-state placements have been a topic of ongoing policy discussions among government officials, educators and citizens, and these facilities deploy taxpayer dollars to educate and treat growing numbers of Illinois youth.

I stand ready to work with ISBE staff to minimize the burden this FOIA request may place on the agency and to expedite release of salient public data, and so would consider tailoring this request. Please let me know if any of the terms used are unclear or incorrect.

State and federal laws enable ISBE to disclose the requested data because they do not include personal characteristics or other information that would make a child’s identity traceable. I am confident that this request de-identifies children by aggregating information over several years, but ask that ISBE notify me about any potential privacy problem so that I can modify the request.

This request is in the public interest as it pertains to the health and safety of Illinois youth and to the fundamental right of Illinois citizens to be informed about the workings of their government agencies.

If you have any questions about this request or if I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me at 312-222-5569 or dyjackson@tribune.com. As I am a daily newspaper reporter on deadline, I appreciate anything you can do to expedite this request.
Sincerely,

David Jackson
Reporter
The Chicago Tribune