Nov. 22, 2013 [e-mailed to:]

Joe Gallego

Dear Mr. Gallego:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Nov. 21, 2013.

You have requested a list of approved providers for special educational disability and/or autistic (categories) needs that are in-state or out-of-state from 2008-2013. Also, you would like to know if the state and/or local school districts use taxpayer funds for special education disability needs for education and/or autistic children outside the state of Illinois.

A list of approved special education in-state and out-of-state private facilities is available at http://www.hbug.k12.il.us/PrivateFacility/. The “Private Facility Search” allows searches by school year and disabilities.

Regarding your second question, the answer is yes. Public districts in Illinois receive the primary portion of their local education funding from property taxes. These funds are unrestricted and can be used for day-to-day operations of the district including tuition that may be paid to students placed in both in-state as well as out-of-state private facilities.

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

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel