Oct. 24, 2013

Steven Landek

Dear Mr. Landek:

This letter is response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Oct. 23, 2013.

You have requested the following information:

Request 1: The amount of money Indian Springs School District 109 was legally obligated to make available for Supplemental Education Services for students in the school year 2012-2013.

Response 1: Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, a district with one or more schools in school improvement status, corrective action or restructuring must make available for Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services an amount equal to 20 percent of the district’s current year Title I allocation. For 2012-13, Indian Springs SD 109 would have had a 20 percent amount of $207,320.20. Please note these are two programs being funded out of a single sum and absent an examination of the district’s bookkeeping records, it would be impossible for our agency to know specifically how much of this amount was available for SES alone as districts have some flexibility in distributing the funds between the two programs.

Request 2: The amount of this money actually spent on underperforming students in the form of Supplemental Education Services.

Response 2: Based on data supplied by the SES providers who served the district in school year 2013, the district owed the providers $5,671.09 for services rendered.

Request 3: The justification given for the gap between the money spent on underperforming students and the legally obligated amount.

Response 3: Our agency does not collect this information. When a district has not expended all of its 20 percent dollars, has met the five implementation requirements found in 34 CFR 200.48 and has funded its 20 percent using NCLB Title I grant dollars set aside, the district may seek permission to move those unspent dollars to other
allowable Title I purposes. Part of this process involves the filing of the Unspent Choice/SES Notification to ISBE form with ISBE. This form does not collect a “justification” but serves as an assurance that the district has met the minimum federal implementation requirements found in the cited regulation. Having so claimed to have met those requirements, a district might be presumed to have the gap noted because parents who were well-informed about SES generally declined to participate in the program. We recommend that you contact the school district for documentation to support the assurance.

Request 4: How many students were given these Supplemental Education Services.

Response 4: Based on data supplied by the SES providers who served the district in school year 2013, the district had five students served by SES providers.

Request 5: How many students were denied Supplemental Education Services.

Response 5: Based on data supplied by the district for school year 2013, the district had four students who applied but did not receive SES. This does not necessarily mean that the students were denied services, although it is possible that four students ineligible to participate in SES applied and were thus properly denied. It could also mean that four students applied and were accepted but then did not engage in any SES invoiced activities.

Request 6: The contact information for the person in charge of SES at Indian Springs.

Response 6: Megan Fuciarelli was the SES administrator for the district in 2012-13 and retains that responsibility for 2013-14. She may be reached through the districts switchboard at (708) 496-8700.

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

Sincerely,

Marcilene Dutton
Deputy General Counsel