This is a request under Illinois' Freedom of Information Act, related to the Grow Your Own (GYO) Teacher initiative overseen by the Illinois State Board of Education between 2005 and 2010. The Illinois Board of Higher Education is now overseeing the program, so ISBE may be able to work with that agency to gather the records I am requesting. However, if ISBE has retained records related to the GYO program between 2005 and 2010, please provide them.

Please provide:

/Any and all GYO funding applications submitted to ISBE by each consortium, for each fiscal year.

/Any and all budgets submitted to ISBE for each consortium, for each fiscal year.

/Total appropriations, each fiscal year, for the GYO program statewide, and for each consortium. For each consortium, please state all partners, and where the dollars were sent, meaning whichever partner in each consortium acted as the fiscal agent. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Total expenditures, each fiscal year, for the GYO program as a whole, and for each consortium. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Total revenues, each fiscal year, for the program as a whole and for each consortium. This should include any private donations, federal aid, and other revenues in addition to state aid. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/If all appropriations were not expended by each consortium and for the program as a whole, please provide records showing the amount not spent, for each fiscal year, as well as information about what happened to the unspent funds. (Were they sent back to the state?) If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Detailed expenditures, by type and fiscal year, for each consortium as whole, such as amounts spent on community-based coordinators, college coordinators, advisors, and other overall GYO expenses. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Money spent on each candidate/participant in each consortium, for each fiscal year. This would include the type of expenditure, such as money for child care, money for transportation and computers and money for tuition or fees and textbook costs not covered by financial aid. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.
Please include expenditures made on behalf of a candidate, such as funds paid to a college for the candidate’s tuition, as well as money provided directly to the candidate, such as a check for child care expenses. Please list the name of the candidate, followed by the amount and type of each expenditure. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Any and all end-of-year reports submitted by each consortium to ISBE, outlining progress, use of grant dollars, and other key aspects of the program.

/Any and all evaluations of the GYO program (excluding those already posted online), including any individual case studies of each consortium, all of which are a matter of public record.

/Any and all financial audits of the GYO program as a whole and each GYO consortium. If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Data about each and every candidate who has participated or is still participating in the GYO program, including:
- Name of consortium connected to candidate;
- Name of each candidate, followed by:
  - Race and gender of candidate;
  - Pre-GYO role, including community leader, non-instructional school staff, paraprofessional, parent volunteer, other.
- When candidate started the program;
- Current status of candidate, including active, currently enrolled towards a 4-year degree; active, currently not enrolled (include reason); exited, or graduated. Please state if the candidate was counseled out of the program. For candidates who exited, please provide the date of exit;
- For each candidate who exited, please provide how much money the candidate is required to repay and if repayment has been made, including the amounts repaid;
- Projected graduation date for each candidate;
- Graduation date, and major, for GYO graduate from a 4-year institution; (Please provide name of institution).
- Information on whether graduates became certified/licensed by the state;
- Employment status of graduate, including school name, district, and city where graduate is working, job title, and part or fulltime employment. Please note if graduate is not currently employed, or employed but not teaching.

If ISBE does not have individual consortium information, please request it from the consortium so it can be provided to the Tribune.

/Total number of GYO candidates over the years of the program and total number of graduates.

/Total number, and names, of GYO participants who became certified/licensed by ISBE.

/Any records or emails relating to why the GYO program was transferred to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

I request a waiver of any fees associated with this request, because the information requested is in the public interest and will benefit the public at large.
When appropriate and feasible, please provide information in a spreadsheet format.

It's usual that some information can be provided more quickly than other information. In those cases, please provide the information, even if other parts of the request require more time.

If you have questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

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