Jennifer S. Forsyth  
The Wall Street Journal  
1211 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 416-3741  
Sept. 4, 2014

Illinois Board of Education  
Matt Vanover  
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Dear custodian of records:

I am requesting an opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of public records that are pursuant to the following:

--Any contracts and/or legal agreements between the state and the Partnership for Association of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) and/or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) from Sept. 4, 2014, including any correspondence between state officials or staff members of the Department of Education between Partnership for Association of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) and or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

--Any requests for proposals (RFPs) from Jan. 1, 2009 to Sept. 4, 2014, by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Education for contracts related to the implementation of Common Core State Standards, or alignment with Common Core State Standards, including but not limited to consulting contracts, textbook purchases, technology purchases, professional development, statewide testing or testing evaluation.

--Any and all bid specifications from Jan. 1, 2009 to Sept. 4, 2014, by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Education for contracts related to the implementation of Common Core State Standards, or alignment with Common Core State Standards, including but not limited to consulting contracts, textbook purchases, technology purchases, professional development, statewide testing or testing evaluation.

--Any and all contracts awarded and signed from Jan. 1, 2009 to Sept. 4, 2014, by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Education related to the implementation of Common Core State Standards, or alignment with Common Core State Standards, including but not limited to consulting contracts, textbook purchases, technology purchases, professional development, statewide testing or testing evaluation.
--Any and all contracts from Jan. 1, 2012 to Sept. 4, 2014 awarded by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Education to the following companies: Pearson, Amplify, McGraw Hill Education, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Amazon, Microsoft, Dell, Apple Inc., Lenovo, Samsung Electronics Co., America’s Choice, Scholastic, MetaMetrics, LearnZillion, Creative Commons Corp., ConnectEDU Inc., the Achievement Network, and/or BetterLesson, Inc.

--Any correspondence between staff of the state Department of Education or staff of the State Board of Education and the following from organizations from Jan. 1, 2009 to Sept. 4, 2014: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Pearson Foundation, Achieve, Inc., the New Venture Fund, the Aspen Institute, Foundation for Excellence in Education, Inc., the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy Foundation Inc., the Council of Chief State Schools Officers, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc., Council of the Great City Schools, the Achievement Network, and/or Student Achievement Partners.

--Any correspondence and/or documents related to staff members of the Department of Education or state Board of Education attending training, professional development or conferences, paid for in full or in part, or subsidized by the Pearson Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Foundation for Excellence in Education, the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy Foundation Inc., and/or Partnership for Association of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) and or the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), including but not limited to travel expenses reports, from Jan. 1, 2009 to Sept. 4, 2014.

I understand that the Act permits a public body to charge a reasonable copying fee not to exceed the actual cost of reproduction and not including the costs of any search or review of the records. 5 ILCS 140/6. [Option:] I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of $150. If you estimate that the fees will exceed this limit, please inform me first. However the law allows you to impose a waiver or reduction of fees when information is sought in the public interest, as is the case for this request, as Common Core Standards will impact all Illinois students. I am a representative of the news media and this request is for news gathering purposes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

In the interest of expediency, and to minimize the research and/or duplication burden on your staff, please send records electronically if possible. If this is not possible, please notify me before sending to the address listed below. Since time is a factor, please communicate with me by telephone or this email address. I can be reached at 212-416-3741.

I look forward to hearing from you in writing within five working days, as required by the Act 5 ILCS 140(3). Thank you for considering and responding to this request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Forsyth