Dear FOIA Coordinator Megan Griffin,

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act/Open Records Act, this is a request for a copy of the following records: information on whether the 26 smallest Illinois school districts in the state started any of the past 5 – 10 years without highly qualified teachers in place. Here are the districts I am interested in –

Allen Otter Creek CCSD #65  
Armstrong-Ellis Cons SD 61  
Buncombe Cons SD 43  
Cherry SD 92  
Crescent Iroquois CUSD 249  
Dalzell SD 98  
Eswood CCSD 269  
Farrington CCSD 99  
Grand Prairie CCSD 6  
Hoylteon Cons SD 29  
Irvington CCSD 11  
Kings Cons SD 144  
Lostant CUSD 425  
Ludlow CCSD 142  
Malden CCSD 84  
McClellan CCSD 12  
Nelson Public SD No. 8  
Nettle Creek CCSD 24C  
Oakdale CCSD 1  
Ohio CCSD 17  
Ohio CHSD 505  
Rooks Creek CCSD 425  
Rutland CCSD 230  
Spring Lake CCSD 606  
St. Libory Cons SD 30  
Steward ESD 220  

Both Cherry and Nelson were recently deactivated but I would still be interested in including them.

I am also requesting any data ISBE may have on how the new Illinois licensure and state testing requirements have impacted the total number of people becoming teachers in the state as well as how licensure has impacted out of state candidates. I am only seeking total numbers and percentages of candidates here.

The principal purpose of this is to include the information in a dissertation I am doing for my doctorate at Western Illinois University on the recruitment and retention of teachers in the smallest school districts with enrollments of less than 100 students in the state of Illinois. Since the information is for a research study whose aim is to identify strategies to increase teacher recruitment and retention in rural school districts and thus positively impact student achievement and decrease the cost of continually training new teachers, I am requesting a waiver of any fees. This dissertation will be made available to
all educational researchers electronically and will also be submitted to be made publicly available on the website of the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools. I will not profit from the collection of this information in any way.

All documents can be e-mailed to julferts@shirland134.org. You can also reach me at [redacted]. I hope that this FOIA request does not cause a problem for anyone as I know how it feels to receive a FOIA. However, I can assure you the information I seek is for legitimate purposes.

If any records or portions of records are withheld, please state the exemption on which you rely, the basis on which the exemption is invoked, and the name of the individual responsible for the decision

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

John Ulferts
Shirland Superintendent Principal #134
8020 North Street, P.O. Box 99
Shirland, Illinois 61079

John Ulferts, Superintendent/Principal
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