



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Feb. 15, 2017

[emailed to drado@chicagotribune.com]

Diane Rado
Chicago Tribune

Dear Ms. Rado:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Feb. 7, 2017.

You have requested the following:

Request 1: Please provide the names, titles and place of employment for each of the seven evaluators who reviewed the Request for Sealed Proposals for a college entrance exam that would be given to tens of thousands of juniors in Illinois at taxpayer expense. In November 2015, the Illinois State Board of Education decided to award the contract to the College Board. Please identify each evaluator with the number used to describe them in procurement records. For example, Evaluator 5 is David Nieto. Please identify whether each evaluator is a public employee or, if retired, was a public employee.

Request 2: Please identify any and all people who made decisions on choosing evaluators. Who, specifically chose evaluator number 7?

Request 3: Please provide the qualifications of each evaluator, including resumes or any other background information.

Request 4: Please provide any records, including emails, about discussions related to Evaluator 7's scores for ACT, which, according to procurement records, were the lowest scores of all evaluators.

Our agency previously provided a response and documents to you in a FOIA response sent on Mar. 10, 2016, addressing each of the above requests. ISBE's original stance on the disclosure of additional information remains the same and we note that the Public Access Counselor's opinion issued on Aug. 9, 2016, is non-binding.

If you feel you have been denied your access to public records, you may file an appeal with the Office of the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or publicaccess@atg.state.il.us. If you choose to submit a request for review, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this response letter. The request for review must be in writing, signed by you and include (i) a copy of your FOIA request and (ii) this office's response. In addition, you have the right to seek judicial review of this response.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Griffin at (217) 782-4648 or mgriffin@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Colette McCarty
Assistant General Counsel