Dear Ms. Rado and Ms. Gutowski:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Feb. 14, 2013.

You have requested the following information:

Request 1: The number of DCFS notifications received by ISBE, by year, for at least the last 10 years. If 15 or 20 years is available, please provide that data, so we can analyze trends. By notifications, we mean the DCFS notifications of indicated reports of abuse and/or neglect in which school personnel are identified as the perpetrator.

Response 1: Our agency has figures available for the last five years –

- 2009 - 92
- 2010 - 61
- 2011 - 49
- 2012 - 75
- 2013 - 2

Request 2: The number of DCFS notifications, by school and school district, by year, for at least the last 10 years.

Response 2: Please see Response 1. Identifying the name of the school and school district would violate the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a), which exempts from disclosure information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law, this portion of your request is denied.

An appeal of this denial may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General’s Public Access Counselor at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or publicaccess@atg.state.il.us.

Request 3: The number of DCFS notifications, by type of school personnel, i.e., teacher, principal, substitute, paraprofessional, by year, for at least the last 10 years.

Response 3: Our agency does not maintain this level of specificity. We receive all DCFS indicated reports on school employees, including those that do not hold a credential issued
by ISBE. In order to provide the requested figure, staff would have to create a new document by examining each report and checking the information against our Teacher Certification Information System. This process for the years requested would place an undue burden on the agency. We are willing to work with you to narrow this portion of your request. Please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Request 4: The number of DCFS notifications that led to ISBE investigations/certification cases, by year, for at least the last 10 years.

Response 4: Our agency does not maintain this level of specificity. In order to provide the requested figure, staff would have to create a new document by going through each educator misconduct case file to determine which ones originated from a DCFS report. This process for the years requested would place an undue burden on the agency. We are willing to work with you to narrow this portion of your request. Please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net

Request 5: The number of DCFS notifications that were referred for criminal prosecution, for at least the last 10 years.

Response 5: Our agency does not maintain this information. Therefore, we have no documents responsive to your request.

Request 6: Policies and procedures related to how ISBE handles DCFS notifications, including how decisions are made to pursue – or not pursue – cases related to the notifications.

Response 6: Our agency does not have a document responsive to this request. Please see Rule 25.488, which is relevant to applications received from individuals with DCFS-indicated reports.

Request 7: Any letters, memos or other records – even a notation in a spreadsheet showing that a DCFS notification has not been pursued by ISBE.

Response 7: In order to provide the requested records, our staff would have to go through each educator misconduct case file to identify which cases involved a DCFS report and then search for and locate the communication where we closed the case. This process for the years requested would place an undue burden on the agency. We are willing to work with you to narrow this portion of your request. Please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net

Request 8: The names and titles of ISBE employees who work full or part-time tracking, handling, and pursuing cases related to DCFS notifications.

Response 8: Assistant General Counsel Jessica Riddick, Paralegal Kim Grice and Principal Consultant Bonnie Schnirring.

Request 9: The field layout or schema used to manage the system of DCFS notifications at ISBE.

Response 9: Our agency does not have a document responsive to this request.
If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information