Feb. 11, 2013 [e-mailed to info@evanstonroundtable.com]

Larry Gavin
Evanston RoundTable
1141 Florence Ave.
Suite 3
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Mr. Gavin:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on Jan. 28, 2013.

On Feb. 4, our agency requested a five-day extension until Feb. 11.

You have requested the following documents related to a memorandum from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch and Deputy Superintendent Susan C. Morrison to the Illinois State Board of Education regarding performance levels for the Jan. 23-24 board meeting:

Request 1: Copies of all studies, analyses, reports, memoranda, charts or other documents that were prepared as part of or that refer to the equipercentile equating process, the cohort-student group analysis, and the backmapping referred to in the memo quoted above.

Response 1: On March 21, 2012, our agency provided you with the report “College & Career Readiness for Illinois State Assessments” in response to your March 8, 2012 FOIA request. That report is responsive to this request. Other documents are exempt from disclosure as they include “records in which opinions are expressed or policies or actions are formulated.” Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (f), these documents are being withheld. Responsive documents also contain “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person or business where the trade secrets or commercial or financial information are furnished under a claim that they are proprietary, privileged or confidential, and that disclosure of the trade secrets or commercial or financial information would cause competitive harm to the person or business, and only insofar as the claim directly applies to the records requested.” Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (g), these documents are being withheld. Additionally, portions of documents containing “test questions, scoring keys and other examination data used to administer an academic examination” are being withheld pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (j) (i).
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 2: Copies of all studies, analyses, reports, memoranda, charts or other documents prepared or reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee as part of the process referred to in the memo quoted above.

Response 2: See Response 1.

Request 3: All other studies or reports prepared by or on behalf of ISBE that equate of attempt to equate ISAT scores with PSAE “meet standards” scores or to equate ISAT scores with college readiness benchmarks of the EXPLORE or ACT tests between March 8, 2012 and the present.

Response 3: See Response 1.

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information