June 11, 2013

Patricia Lopuszanski

Dear Ms. Lopuszanski:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on June 4, 2013.

You have submitted a variety of questions regarding Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative and the Kane County Regional Office of Education establishing an ALOP for Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative. Please note that as an open records law, FOIA is a method through which individuals seek access to documents. It is not intended to serve as a way to obtain answers to questions. In the spirit of cooperation, we will try and address your questions in our response.

Request 1: All copies of documentation sent to the ISBE from Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative and the Kane County Regional Office of Education establishing an ALOP for Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative.

Response 1: The attached document, 13-363-lopuszanski-doc1.pdf, is provided in response to your request.

Request 2: Date ISBE approved Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative ALOP. Date Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative enrolled students in ALOP funded programs. Amount of funding received for each student currently enrolled in an ALOP program. Amount of funding that will be received per student for 2013/2014 school year.

Response 2: Please see Response 1. Our agency does not have information on the amount of funding received per student.

Request 3: Copies of emails, or any other form of communication related to the establishing of ALOP funding sent to Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative from the ISBE. Who will be responsible for the accountability of funds received and how they are spent? What is the criteria for students to be claimed under ALOP? How does Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative get approval to claim students under ALOP? List the programs and the number of students in each program that will be claimed and the full funding amount per student to be paid under ALOP.
Response 3: The attached document, 13-363-lopuszanski-doc2.pdf, is provided in response to your request. Information regarding ALOP requirements is available on our website at http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/alop.htm. Please note that our agency does not have information regarding the programs and number of students in each program that will be claimed and the full funding amount per student to be paid under ALOP.

Request 4: Requirements to claim staff and list of job titles, service providers, licensed/certified teachers, therapists, social workers or any other staff member that may be paid under ALOP? How much funding can be used towards salaries? Does ALOP funding cover any other expenses i.e. supplies, technology, transportation, purchase of vehicles, maintenance and gas?


Request 5: Are ALOP funds prorated and considered General State Aid? Do these funds flow through the Kane County ROE twice a month? Date funding disbursements begin? What is the total amount of revenue to be disbursed through ALOP to Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative?

Response 5: GSA for ALOP programs is only distributed to Regional Offices of Education. Our agency does not show any ALOP GSA funding for the Kane County Regional Office of Education in Fiscal Year 2013.

Request 6: What happens to unspent ALOP funds at the end of year?

Response 6: All unexpended state money awarded to a grant recipient must be returned.

Request 7: Copies of GSA claims filed by Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative broken down by programs and students for 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014 when filed and made available. ALOP funding paid to Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative for any of those school years as well.

Response 7: Our agency has no GSA claims for this cooperative. Therefore, we have no documents responsive to this part of your request.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachments