May 24, 2013

Jim Freeman

Dear Mr. Freeman:

This letter is in response to your request for information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Your request was received on May 23, 2013.

You have requested the following information:

Request 1: Records indicating the number of (1) out-of-school suspensions, (2) expulsions, (3) referrals of students to alternative schools or programs for disciplinary reasons, (4) referrals of students to law enforcement, and (5) student arrests, for all Illinois school districts and charter schools during the 2011-12 school year, disaggregated by as many of the following as possible: date, school, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, disability, type of offense, and length of punishment.

Response 1: Data for out-of-school suspensions and expulsions at the district level by gender, grade cluster and race/ethnicity is available on our website at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/eoy_report.htm. Please note that pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a), cell sizes of less than 10 have been redacted. Even in the absence of disclosing student names, small group sizes could reveal student identities. Information regarding student arrests is reported by school districts into our School Incident Reporting System (SIRS). The attached document, 13-354-freeman-doc.xlsx, provided data reported into SIRS for the 2011-2012 school year. Please note that pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/7 (1) (a), identifying information, such as age, gender, race and ethnicity, about the offenders and victims has been withheld. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the disclosure of these records, even in redacted form, if the information would make the students' identities easily traceable.

Request 2: Records indicating the student population in all Illinois school districts and charter schools during the 2011-12 school year, disaggregated by as many of the following as possible: school, age, grade, gender, race/ethnicity, ELL status, and disability.

Response 2: Enrollment data at the district and school level by grade, gender and ethnicity is available on our website at http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/fall_housing.htm.

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

Sincerely,